Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Feds to provide backup genset for Saipan seaport. PAGE 5

Kilili: CNMI food stamp benefits to go up. PAGE 8

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

At this point, have you already chosen which gubernatorial candidate to vote for in the November elections?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of June 3, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Crash Site

An airplane seat, a fuel slick and pieces of white debris confirm the crash of Air France Flight 447.

WORLD...Page 17

'US IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL TO BENEFIT CNMI'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Honda

The chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Rep. Michael Honda (D-Calif), will be introducing an immigration bill that, among other things, would reunite green card holders with spouses and children and give the attorney general more flexibility to address family

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CHC eyes gradual decrease in primary care physicians

DPH mulls sharing services with private sector

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

As part of the Department of Public Health's healthcare reform initiative, it is now planning a gradual reduction in the number of primary physicians within the Commonwealth Health Center.

This healthcare initiative would allow the private medical sector to participate as a partner in the delivery of primary care for the community, according to DPH acting Secretary Pedro T. Untalan.

Untalan said that CHC would share

See CHC on Page 4

CHILD'S PLAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Three-year-old Taiyo Akimaru jumps on the bleachers at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday afternoon, shortly before heavy rains caused almost zero visibility on the road among motorists and flash flooding in flood-prone areas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan talks to reporters yesterday afternoon on a host of issues.

SSA review urged on re-enrolling CNMI govt employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan said yesterday the U.S. Social Security Administration will prioritize an analysis of the impact and cost of getting CNMI

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Kilili visits troops in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan

'Delay wage hike to Sept. in 2010, but not federalization'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait had an unexpected visitor last week—Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan—who presented them with a congressional

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Local

DES names Mostales, Centino outstanding graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Dandan Elementary School's Joshua Mostales and Jeffrey Centino are the school's top graduates this year, leading 46 other sixth graders in a promotion ceremony held yesterday at the campus.

Mostales, who is this year's Commissioner's Award recipient, also bagged 10 other special recognitions in both academic and extra-curricular activities , including A Honor Roll, Best in Language, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Best in Chamorro Language.

The 12-year-old student is the son of Jennifer and Joey Mostales. He plans to pursue junior high at Grace Christian Academy.

Principals' Award recipient Centino was also awarded seven other special recognitions for his successful participation in academic competitions here and off-island, including the Spelling Bee and Science Fair in Guam, Academic Challenge Bowl, Mathcounts, and Mathcourt competitions. The 11-year-old boy will enroll in Hopwood Junior High next school year. He is the son of Lyn and Jolly Centino.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commissioner's Awardee Joshua Mostales, second from right, and Principals' Award Jeffrey Centino, left, pose with Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan after yesterday's promotion ceremony.

The two only learned of their top standings during yesterday's ceremony. DES makes the announcement of both the Principal's and Commissioner's awardees a surprise every year.

Mostales admitted to being in suspense in the last few days because he was uncertain whether he would receive the prestigious honor.

"I am thrilled and I am very surprised that I was chosen. …This will only push me to continue to do my very best when we leave our school. This plaque is an indicator that I have succeeded at the first level, and a reminder that I still have a long way to go," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In his speech, Centino chose to focus on the priority needs of students in Dandan Elementary. Counting on the stimulus package for the Public School System, Centino urged Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who was present, to never forget the needs of the Tottot family.

He cited the decade-old problems of lack of classrooms, shortage of teachers, and immediate supplies—all vital to student learning.

Saying she heard Centino's message, Sablan reiterated the strong commitment of PSS to address his concerns for Dandan Elementary.

Besides Mostales and Centino, the other top 10 students in the graduating class were Danica Domingo, Stephane Espayos, Jared Ayuyu, Jhan Nary Anota, Lin Jess Cabrera, Nipighiyong Laniyo, Clayton Sablan, and Isabel Villagomez.

School officials led by principal Jonas Barcinas also honored Jeremy Lizama and Ana Hemley as this year's athletics awardees; Margarita Kilelеman, service award; and Centino, Tiana Osada, Nipighiyong Laniyo for the Student Council service award.

Barcinas and Sablan also honored the PTA officers by awarding them a plaque of recognition.

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Santos, Lizama are Oleai school's top two awardees

Keina Jewel J. Santos and Ursula Monica D. Lizama led this year's batch of 56 graduating students of Oleai Elementary School.

Santos was named this year's Valedictorian and recipient of seven other special recognitions, including the President's Excellence Award, Best in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies awards, Perfect Attendance, and A Honor Roll Award.

KEINA JEWEL J. SANTOS
Valedictorian

URSULA MONICA D. LIZAMA
Salutatorian

Lizama, 12, was named Oleai's Salutatorian for the year. She also bagged seven other special honors including Perfect Attendance, A Honor Roll, President's Excellence Award, Leadership Award, and subject awards in Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies. She is the daughter of Jessica and Fred Lizama.

Both students will go on to Hopwood Junior High next school year.

Lizama dreams of becoming a teacher someday. "I've seen the commitment and dedication of our teachers…and they inspire me to become one of them," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "I will never stop until I reach my goal."

Principal Glenn Muna, along with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, also honored the achievements of other Top 10 students: Angeline Orsini, Braylan Floresca, Noemi Caacbay, Jenella Nelmida, Yoneil Maniacop, John Taisacan, Jenny Rose Habijan, and Janelle Achondo.

Students who were also presented subject awards included Orsini, language arts; Maniacop and Floresca, math; Caacbay, science; Rosien Spis and Orsini, social studies; Vinnie Inos Jr. and Mikaila Camacho, Chamorro language.

Athlete awards were also bestowed on Inos and Hercia Nekaifes.

Principal Glenn Muña reminded students "to take what you've learned from Oleai and apply it. Remember, everything we have taught is a reflection of our ESLRs—Oleai's community helpers, lifelong learners, energetic health promoters, academic achievers, and independent leaders."

The school's PTA officers were also recognized by the Board of Education and PSS. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

US Justice asked to probe Mobil, Shell's alleged price fixing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley M. Torres (R-Saipan) asked the U.S. Department of Justice yesterday to investigate Mobil and Shell for what he describes as a "disturbing and blatant case of price fixing" in the CNMI by the two oil giants.

Torres's June 3 letter came a day after Shell mirrored Mobil's15-cent a gallon pump price increase. This is Mobil and Shell's second round of price hikes in a month.

In his two-page letter, Torres said Mobil and Shell have been setting "artificially high" gasoline and diesel fuel prices and then conspiring to set a fixed equal price for their commodity at each sales outlet. This practice of collusion and price fixing continues to this date, he said.

"These companies blatantly shift prices simultaneously, or within hours of each other at supposedly competing locations selling different brands of fuel at stations owned by different groups and individuals. They sell motor fuels at all these locations at exactly the same price to the tenth of a cent and when they change prices, they all change to exactly the same prearranged price at the same time. They do so unannounced to the public. This has occurred twice within the last month and scores of other documented times in the past," Torres said.

The lawmaker said all these strike at the very heart of the CNMI's free market economic system and involves very powerful multinational companies.

"We need your help to put a stop to this illegal activity. We live on small islands where the conditions for price fixing as defined under the Sherman Act are ripe," he added.

Self-serve regular unleaded gasoline at both Mobil and Shell is now $3.27 a gallon, much higher than the prices on the U.S. mainland.

Torres told the U.S. Department of Justice' Anti Trust Division that the facts and conditions he laid out are well documented and can easily be corroborated by the federal office.

"I hereby formally request your investigators to look into these illegal activities, to prosecute those individuals and/or companies responsible and to force them to stop this pattern of collusion and return to a free market competitive system of selling their wares," he added.

Fuel supply contract

In other news, Shell Marianas won the bid to supply fuel and lubricants to the CNMI government.

As a result, the government ended its fuel supply contract with Mobil Oil Mariana Inc. on May 31.

Acting Finance Secretary Robert A. Schrack said this in a May 29 memo to department heads and agencies.

The memo, copies of which were faxed to the media, urged departments and activities to procure gasoline for their vehicles no later than May 31 at 11:59pm pending completion of a contract with Shell Marianas.

Portion of Route 100 is renamed Carlos Songsong Calvo Highway

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a local law renaming a portion of Route 100 on Rota as the Carlos Songsong Calvo Highway in honor of the late Carlos S. Calvo's civic and political contributions to the island.

The renamed portion of the highway starts from the west corner of Melchor S. Mendiola Plaza heading east along Route 100 to Malilok Point.

Calvo was awarded a certificate of meritorious service by the Catholic Church and served as the Rota District Delegation representative to the Inter-District Micronesian Conference.

He was also an active conservationist, preserving and maintaining Rota's natural environment.

"To memorialize the many civic and political accomplishments of the late Carlos Songsong Calvo, the Rota Legislative Delegation finds that a portion of roadway on the island of Rota should be named in his honor," said Senate Local Bill 16-05, introduced by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog (R-Rota).

SLB 16-05 is now Rota Local Law 16-7 after the governor signed it on May 29.

The new local law requires the Rota mayor, in consultation with the family of the late Calvo, to prepare a plan for the dedication within a reasonable timeframe from the signing of the local law.

Liberation Day kicks off tomorrow

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Rain or shine, the kickoff ceremony for the Liberation Day activities will go ahead tomorrow, June 5, according to the organizing committee.

A downpour yesterday afternoon forced the cancellation of a meeting of the organizing committee members at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Committee chair Jack Omar and some of the members had the opportunity, however, to inspect the ongoing construction of booths and the main stage.

Tony Benavente, public information officer for the month-long activity, said the committee will resume its meeting this afternoon to discuss contingency plans in case the intermittent rains worsen.

Entertainment committee chair Joe Limes issued yesterday the schedule of activities from June 5-8.

On Friday, June 5, John Hosono will host the kickoff ceremony at 6pm. Performers will include Uncle Ben's Dance Studio at 8:30pm, Afetna Regime band at 9pm, and Reto Jazz Band at 9:30pm.

Saturday's performers will be Timothy Youth Circle at 8:30pm, Wellepal band at 9pm and Angel International School Band at 9:30pm, with LJ Castro as the emcee.

Hosono will be back as emcee on Sunday, June 7, with performers Inatuas, Local Boys and Island Warriors, while on Monday night Gordon I. Marciano will take on hosting duties, with Falun Dafa and Past and Present scheduled to perform.

Application for candidates for the Liberation Queen is still open.

Benavente said only two candidates have so far confirmed.

Earlier, pageant committee chair Rose T. Ada said candidates are having a hard time selling tickets. Ada said this could be the effect of the current economic crisis.

The committee needs at least six candidates to complete the slate for the pageant.

Country House ex-president, cashier sued for allegedly embezzling $200K

The owner of Country House Restaurant has sued a former company president and his wife for allegedly embezzling at least $200,000 in cash and property from the company and restaurant.

Nippon General Trading Corp., operator of Country House Restaurant, sued Koichi Tabei and his wife, Emma Guillerma Tabei.

NGT, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay the company damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach the Tabei couple yesterday for comments, but no one answered their phone.

Koichi Tabei was the president of NGT and general manager of Country House. Emma Tabei worked as cashier for Country House Restaurant for many years , holding a position of trust and responsibility at Country House.

Scoggins stated in the complaint that, between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, the Tabei couple converted, misappropriated and embezzled at least $200,000 in cash and property from NGT and Country House Restaurant.

He said when the Tabei couple learned that NGT and Country House were investigating their improper activities the couple resigned from NGT and Country House.

Scoggins added that the Tabeis "misappropriated property that properly belonged to NGT and Country House," in breach of their fiduciary duty to NGT and restaurant. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Reyes, King fight over small claim

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. and former Miss CNMI Universe and lawyer Janet King are expected to face each other today in the Superior Court over a small claim case.

Saipan Tribune learned that Reyes filed a small claim case, asking payment of about $1,800 from King.

A prejudgment hearing or initial appearance hearing was set for today at 9am before associate judge Perry B. Inos.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Reyes refused to comment about the case. He also declined a request for a copy of his complaint.

King referred *Saipan Tribune* to her counsel, Robert T. Torres, who said they filed an answer to the small claim, asserting defenses of estoppel.

Torres said their answer is that "these were gifts given freely or that they were items purchased and reimbursement was offered and declined."

Legal books define estoppel as a defense against a party reneging on a previous statement that is assumed to be a legal truth. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

Saipan summer camp for US Army relatives

The U.S. Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services, which is based in California, is inviting children in the CNMI who are relatives of Army Reserve soldiers to participate in the upcoming summer camp on Saipan.

Kasee Fuller, the coordinating officer for this camp, said the free registration for the camp is ongoing.

The deadline for submission of application is June 15.

Fuller said the summer camp will be held August 3-7 at the Marianas Trekking Eco-Camp inside the Marianas Resort and Spa in Marpi.

The camp will run from 8:30am to 3pm each day with free aftercare until 5pm.

Qualified to join are children, siblings, cousins, or nephews/nieces of U.S. Army Reservists. Their ages must be 4-13.

For registration visit the wesite: www.arfp.org/arec or contact Kasee Fuller at 412-527-5073. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

SSA

From Page 1

government employees back into the Social Security system, which he said could supplement the benefits from the NMI Retirement Fund.

The study will be conducted at no cost to the CNMI government.

In a news briefing yesterday at his new office in Susupe, Sablan said he asked the Social Security Administration to "perform a review and analysis of what it would take for us, and how much it would cost us, to get government employees back into the Social Security system."

"The Social Security administrator assured me they will prioritize this," he said.

But Sablan clarified that once the analysis is done, it will be up to the CNMI government to decide whether to consider getting public sector employees back into the federal program.

In 1986, the CNMI government decided to opt out of the Social Security System and instead created the NMI Retirement Fund for their pension system.

Sablan met yesterday morning with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios to brief them about the study and support it.

Reyes, in a separate interview, said the CNMI is under no obligation to bring back government employees into the Social Security system once the study is done, but he said he welcomes any study on its costs and impacts.

"There's no binding contract. Once they give us the product, we will review it and make a decision. There's no harm in doing the study for us. And when the time comes, the people will be consulted. It will be brought to the public for input," Reyes said.

Should the CNMI government decide to bring back public servants into the federal program, Sablan said employees would have a three-pronged security: pension, personal savings, and Social Security.

"It's a safety net…because you can lose your time, you can lose your investment, you can lose your savings, but Social Security [is there]. It should be available to our people when they need it most, when they get older," he said.

Congressional visit

Sablan, who is back on Saipan for the second time since he was sworn into office in January, said the chairman of the powerful U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Rep. Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV), will be leading the congressional delegate visiting the CNMI and Guam in August.

Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, announced the visit of lawmakers to the Marianas during a May 19 oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 (federalization law) in the CNMI.

Stimulus funding

Sablan also said the CNMI government should take seriously the stimulus funding application which he said will help the people and the economy.

He said it is "utterly ridiculous" to ask for exemptions on the requirements of the federal stimulus funding "just because we're from the Northern Mariana Islands."

Earlier, he said the CNMI is the only one among U.S. territories and states that has not obligated its first federal transportation economic stimulus money, risking the receipt of $4.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for highway spending on the islands.

He had said the CNMI is the only government that has not yet submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation the Section 1511 certification that is required in order to begin obligating highway funds. But the Department of Public Works said this requirement had been met since then.

KILILI

From Page 1

commendation in honor of their service to the country, as well as hard betel nuts and cookies.

In a news briefing yesterday, Sablan also said he does not support a further delay in the transition to federal immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, but is asking Rep. George Miller to amend Public Law 110-28 to delay the next round of minimum wage increase in May 2010 to Sept. 1, 2010.

He said the delay will give the U.S. Congress time to review a Government Accountability Office study due in April 2010, on the impact of the minimum wage increase.

He also said he does not support a further delay in the transition to federal immigration on Nov. 28, 2009. He said the CNMI may not "get exactly what we want but we would get what we need."

"I want to make one thing very clear though. I don't want a delay on the federalization any longer than we need," he said.

'Proud of CNMI troops'

Sablan is the first CNMI elected official to visit U.S. troops in the Middle East.

"Our troops are doing well. Obviously, they're in war and my heart goes out to them. My prayers go out to them. They all miss home dearly but they're soldiers and they're making us proud. They're serving the country," Sablan said.

The House Armed Services Committee, which includes Sablan, was briefed by ranking officials in the Middle East of the current peace and security situation in the area.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that he left Washington, D.C. on May 25 and arrived in Kuwait on May 26. That same day, he and committee members and staffers flew to Baghdad, Iraq. On May 27, they left Iraq and flew to Bahrain. From Bahrain, they arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 29. The following day, they left for Dubai.

"I was not able to meet all the troops but I was able to meet with many of them and they're just so happy that someone from the Northern Mariana Islands finally took the time and made the effort to visit them where they are," he said.

His Middle East trip made him miss the State of the Commonwealth Address last week. Unlike the former CNMI delegate to Washington, D.C., the delegate is not required to report to the CNMI Legislature during SOCA.

Sablan said he supports Rep. Michael Honda's (D-Calif) effort to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue commemorative stamp honoring the 442nd Echo Company. He's one of the first volunteers for the company so he also has personal attachment to the company. He added that some CNMI troops are providing security "for the top generals running the war." The 100bn, 442nd Infantry, Company E is comprised of Guam, Saipan.

CHC

From Page 1

the patient load of its clinics by transferring them to participating private medical clinics/providers.

Untalan said the gradual reduction of physicians in hospital clinics will eliminate duplicative services and allow the growth of the private medical sector.

This, he said, would also allow better access to care for the community and support the continuity of care by having one physician follow the patient, rather than different medical providers following the patient for the same medical diagnosis.

Untalan said the initiative would allow CHC to focus on traditional hospital-based services such as surgery, anesthesiology, radiology, emergency room services, pathology, and nephrology.

"Primary medical care would be offered and provided by the existing clinics. Our community would enjoy the benefits of better access and most importantly, continuity," he said.

The Medicaid Program is an example of the public-private partnership, allowing the private medical sector to participate in the care and treatment of the Medicaid population of approximately 8,000 members and their families.

"We are now able to reimburse the participating medical provider for the care provided to the Medicaid clientele. We want to take this to the next phase of allowing the same Medicaid provider the opportunity to admit, treat and discharge their patients requiring hospitalization rather than having the hospital providers do the admission, care and discharge of patients seen by a private medical provider," Untalan explained.

DPH is currently reviewing the validity of requiring private medical providers to have some form of medical malpractice insurance in addition to meeting credentialing requirements.

At the moment, it is impossible to purchase this type of insurance because it is not offered in the CNMI or even in Guam, Untalan said.

He said DPH is exploring the possibility of suspending a section of the Medical Staff By-Laws and offering private medical providers the option to admit their patients to CHC—if they are willing to accept the risk involved.

Untalan noted that the hospital is protected by the government's Public Employee Legal Defense and Indemnification Act, setting the limit on how much the government would allow itself to be sued.

"Our responsibility would be to do 'due diligence' on all physicians applying for admitting and clinical privileges. We would establish standards of practice for all medical disciplines allowed to practice in the hospital," he said.

With this system, DPH will allow a private medical provider to admit their patients at the hospital, discharge them once their treatment is completed, and see them at his or her clinic for follow up care.

Untalan said this would reduce the number of primary care physicians needed at CHC, resulting in cost savings in personnel that could be reinvested in the hospital system.

"As part of the physician's responsibility—once allowed the privilege to admit patients under their service—the physician is required to take hospital calls for patients seen at the ER that requires consultation and possible admission," Untalan said.

He said this call responsibility would be shared by all physicians who have clinical and admitting privileges or members of the CHC medical staff.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

separation for permanent residents and their families.

Honda's bill, according to Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, will help address immigration concerns in the CNMI, where nonresident workers and immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens are calling for improved and permanent status, especially in the face of federalization.

"It will help everybody. The Reuniting Families Act is not addressed to the Northern Marianas; it's addressed to the nation," Sablan said yesterday.

Sablan said he's one of the co-sponsors of the bill, which Honda will introduce this week.

Honda will hold a Thursday press conference in Washington, D.C. to introduce the measure, which he is billing as one of the "key components of a comprehensive immigration package, in preparation for President Obama's reform agenda."

Among the provision of Honda's bill are: reunite green card holders with spouses and children, increase the per-country limits of family and employment-based visas from 7 percent to 10 percent, give the attorney general more flexibility to address family separation for permanent residents and their families, exempt the children of World War II Filipino veterans from visa caps, and allow same-sex partners of permanent residents to qualify for a visa.

"The Reuniting Families Act should be at the heart of comprehensive immigration reform, seeking to fix our broken immigration system while taking into account the current economic climate. Our family-based immigration system has not been updated in 20 years, separating spouses, children and their parents, who have played by the rules, for years, often decades," Honda said in a statement.

Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the United Workers Movement NMI, said they look forward to the introduction of the measure in U.S. Congress.

Joining Honda, whom Sablan describes as one of the "nicest" members of Congress, will be other lawmakers and supporting advocacy organizations.

The Reuniting Families Act helps to clear the current immigration logjam of 5.8 million people by providing legal mechanisms to streamline the application process.

Honda said at present, the bureaucratic backlog wastes precious government resources, both human and financial. In response, the bill streamlines the application process so that it is fair and incentivizes potential applicants to use legal channels to join their family in the United States.

A streamlined system and reduced backlog would demonstrate to immigrants tempted to arrive outside the legal process that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for those who stay within the legal process.

As a result of current long waits, many family members who apply for visas in the prime of their lives are not granted admission until they reach retirement age, undermining their economic contribution to the country and encouraging some frustrated relatives to resort to illegal migration.

"By providing American workers with a vital social safety net—that is, their family—we help make our communities stronger and more resilient. The benefits here cannot be overstated. American workers with families by their side are happier, healthier and more able to succeed than those distanced from loved ones for years on end," he said.

JOETEN'S MEGA GIVEAWAYS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three lucky customers won great prizes in Joeten's 60th Anniversary Mega giveaways. Bill Santos was May's biggest winner, taking home a new Yamaha ATV. Santos' winning coupon came from Price Costco where he and his family shops regularly. The 2nd and 3rd prize winners also went home with excellent prizes. Rebecca Markoff was the lucky winner of CMS' $1000 worth of Hollow blocks and Bridgette Cabrera won a brand new X-Box 360. Both winners got their tickets at Joeten Hafa Adai Garapan. Joeten's MegaGiveaway for June will be the Nisasn Versa. Drawing for the Versa will be held at 5pm, June 20, 2009.

Seven overstaying foreign workers ordered deported

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has ordered the deportation of seven overstaying alien workers who are mostly former garment workers.

Chinese nationals Xiaoqin Chen, Xi Shen, Qin Fen Cao, Jie Cui, Aichun Zhang, Cui Zhaofei, and Zhenhua Guo were ordered deported from the CNMI. Except for Guo, all are female.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued separate deportation orders for the seven after the respondents inked an agreement with the Division of Immigration for their departure from the CNMI.

The respondents and Immigration, through assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell, agreed that, rather than proceeding with a hearing to show cause why they should not be deported, they will consent to an order of deportation.

Wiseman said any bail in all seven cases is exonerated and shall be returned to the posting party.

The judge ordered that any passport in the custody of the court shall be released to an Attorney General Investigation Unit investigator or Immigration investigator for repatriation purposes.

If the respondents do not have passports, Wiseman said, they will cooperate with the AGIU in obtaining travel documents for repatriation purposes.

According to court documents, Chen overstayed her worker's permit, which expired on Jan. 3, 2009; Shen's worker's permit expired on May 21, 2009; Cao's worker's permit expired on Sept. 23, 2008; Cui's worker's permit expired on Jan. 13, 2008; Zhang's worker's permit expired on June 26, 2007; and Zhaofei's enty permit expired on Oct. 16, 2008.

Guo's worker's entry permit expired in June 2004. He stipulated to deportation pursuant to a plea agreement in his 2008 criminal case.

Feds save CPA from power outages; provide backup genset for seaport

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Normal operations at the Port of Saipan is expected to resume in the next few months when the Commonwealth Ports Authority installs its first backup generator at the site.

Saipan Tribune learned that the unavailability of a backup generator at the seaport has been affecting operations. Since last year, successive power outages had reportedly affected the port's performance.

"Because of the power outages in the past, the dock itself shuts down. So when CUC shuts down the power, the entire seaport shuts down, with the exception of the building alone," Saipan seaport manager Mary Ann Q. Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She said the seaport has been operating for many years now without the required backup generator, forcing vessel operators to rely on their own backup power.

"When the power shuts down, the vessels rely on their onboard generator, which we would like to alleviate. We want our port to provide the power [which we don't have at present]," she said.

That will change soon, after the Department of Homeland Security approved nearly $1 million to fund the installation of the seaport generator.

Design for the backup generator is expected to be completed in about five months, according to CPA officials.

The grant will cover the cost of a generator that will be capable of providing power for lights, communication, and security to the port in the event of an islandwide power outage to ensure safety at the seaport.

CPA, which is in the stage of preparing the bid announcement, will be receiving a total of $946,000 grant from DHS.

Saipan Tribune learned that the approved unit will most likely be a 275-megawatt generator, which is enough to refrigerate the containers.

Lizama said yesterday the federal assistance would be a significant help to the port's operation.

At the Saipan International Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration shouldered the expenses and maintenance of backup generators.

In 2008, international flights and hundreds of passengers were affected by successive power interruptions. To ensure the safety of passengers, FAA approved the procurement of a brand new generator, amounting to over $2 million.

Once installed, the unit will bring to three the total available generators at the Saipan airport.

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Six students win Chamber scholarship grants

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six students from various private and public high schools on island were this year's recipients of scholarship grants from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The six, who received $1,500 each, were presented their checks yesterday during the Chamber's membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort.

Terrence Duenas, who will be graduating next week from Kagman High School, dreams of becoming an engineer and will attend the Shoreline Community College in Fall.

Erika Johnson, 18, assured Chamber members that the grant will not be wasted as she plans to return and serve the islands after she finishes college. Johnson, a graduate of Mount Carmel School, will attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa for her marketing course.

So Young Lee, 18, a senior student of Marianas Baptist Academy, said the grant will enable her to now enroll and pursue her biological science degree at the University of Southern California.

Eli Ebenezer Wong, a graduating senior from Marianas High School, praised the Chamber for its consistent commitment to the education of local students. Wong, who wants to become a marine biologist, will attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Saipan Southern High School senior Min Sol Kim, who will attend the Chaminade University this Fall, said the $1,500 assistance will help her achieve her dream of becoming a teacher.

Jayce Emmalin Jurado, a graduating senior from MHS, rounded out the six Chamber scholars. Jurado will attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Last month, the chamber also provided scholarship grants to two Marianas Trades Institute students—Luis Pedro J. Arriola and Kevin A. Yamagata, who were each awarded $1,500 financial assistance.

The Chamber's scholarship grants are funded through events such as the Corporate Challenge, golf tournament, and the Installation Dinner's silent auction.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The six new scholars of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce pose with their ceremonial checks after the awarding ceremony yesterday at the Chamber's regular meeting at Saipan World Resort.

Woman seriously injured after beating

A woman was seriously injured when her boyfriend allegedly beat her up and dragged her into the water at a beach on Tinian Monday.

The victim sustained bruises and swelling on the nose, abrasions on the upper chest, and scratch marks on her throat, right upper arm, left thigh, and lower leg.

Yun Long Bai, 36, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence.

The Tinian Immigration Office alleged that Bai is an overstaying alien.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Bai's temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon before associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that the victim and a companion went to Tinian Department of Public Safety on Monday to report the beating.

Investigation showed that while at Kammer Beach, Bai asked for money from the victim. She told him she would give it to him the following day.

Bai allegedly got angry and started punching her. He also tore her shirt and dragged her into the water. Their companion tried to stop the defendant from beating the victim.

The victim told police that Bai would ask her for money so he could play poker. She said this was not the first time he beat her up.

The victim confessed that the defendant once cut her thigh and foot with a knife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM 1
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ***Thursday, June 11,2009 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base, Sa/pan, MP.***

3. **All Questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time ***Thursday, June 18, 2009*** to Mr. Steve Hiney, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Lower Base Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

4. **Sealed Bids:** must be marked "DPW09-IFB-019". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. July 6,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. local time July 6, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2009, and must be received no later than July 15, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 16,2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids wil1 be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

WIC

POSTED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The CNMI Department of Public Health is presenting for public review and comments the 2009 State Plan for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Comments submitted will be reviewed for possible inclusion into the plan for FY2009.

WIC is a 100% federally funded nutrition education and supplemental food program for low income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. Eligibility is determined by nutritional risk and incomes that fall below 185 percent of the poverty level. CNMI WIC has approximately 4,700 participants currently enrolled.

A priority for the program is to make sure pregnant women understand the importance of adequate nutrition throughout their pregnancy, and that mothers with young children have the basic nutritional knowledge necessary to assure their children's proper nutrition intake.

The State Plan can be viewed on-line at cnmiwic.org website or by visiting the WIC Administration Office, Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N-25.

Comments must be received in writing no later than 4:30 pm, June 15, 2009.

Send your comments in writing to the:
CNMI WIC Program
P.O. Box 500409
Saipan, MP 96950

or at the:

CNMI WIC Program Administrative Office
Upper Navy Hill
Bldg. N 25

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the
Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2009-2010

On March 6, 2009, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines effective July 1,2009.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. The guidelines for WIC are shown below.

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

48 Contiguous States, D.C. Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
Each Add'l. Member add	+6,919	+577	+289	+267	+134

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program

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NMI food stamps benefits to go up

An increase in food stamp benefits will soon be available for recipients in the NMI, according to CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan yesterday.

"I have received word from the Department of Agriculture officials in Washington and in the Western Regional Office of the Food and Nutrition Service that they will be notifying the Governor probably this week that there is another $1.459 million available for the NMI food stamp program," said Sablan. "I have written to Secretary Vilsack to say thank you. These are difficult times in the Northern Marianas; and families on food stamps need all the help they can get."

Sablan

Sablan asked Vilsack for the extra funding in February after passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act did not include the Marianas in a 13.86 percent across-the-board increase in food stamp benefits nationally.

"The NMI doesn't participate in the food stamp program by statute, so when the statute was changed we were left out," said Sablan.

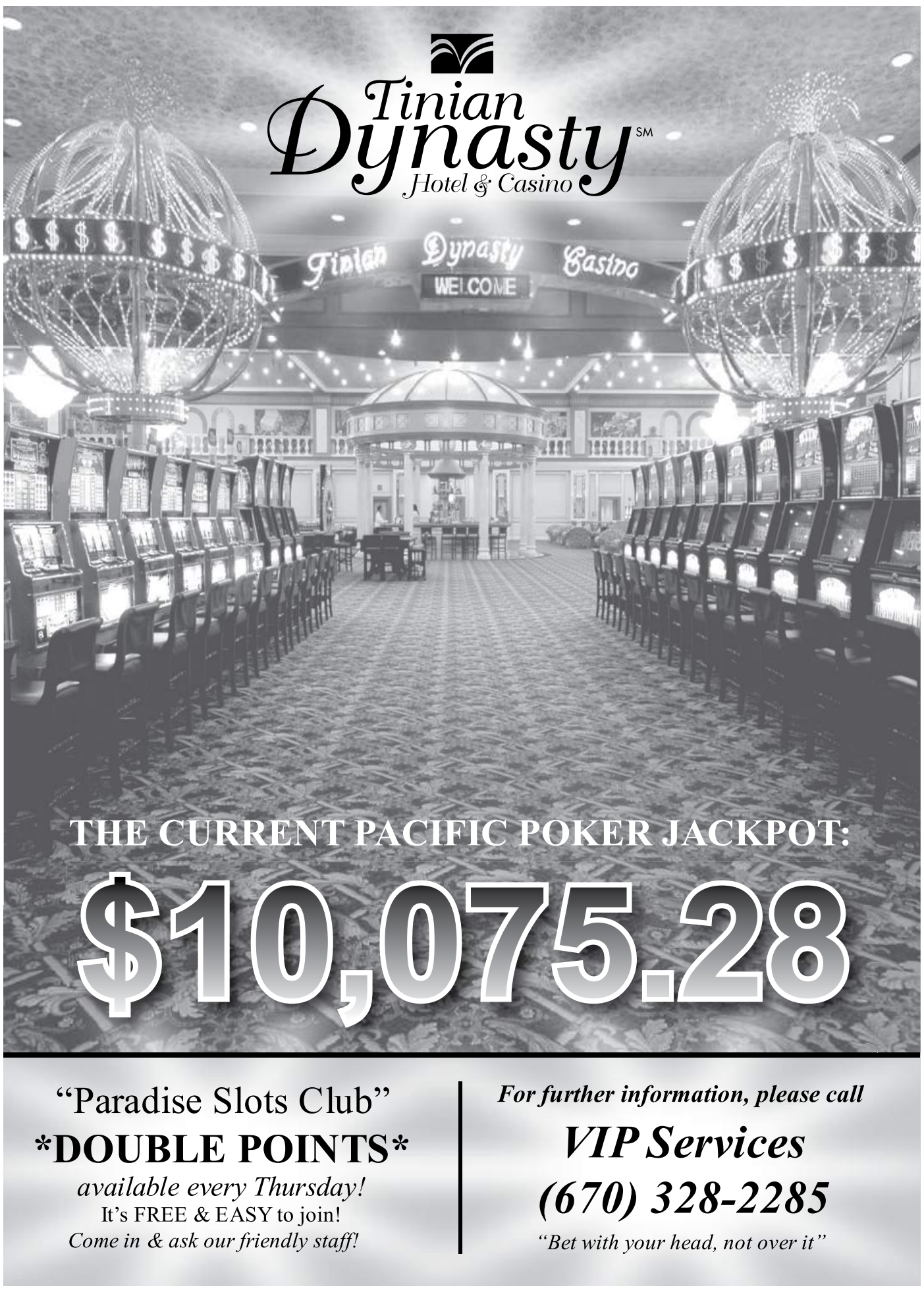
He lobbied Vilsack to correct the oversight; and the Secretary agreed to reprogram $1.459 million to give the Northern Marianas the same 13.86 percent increase as the rest of the country.

Vilsack also agreed to keep the Northern Marianas at par in the event of future changes in the benefit amount. In a May 8 letter to House and Senate appropriations subcommittee chairs Vilsack wrote that "[f]uture funding increases for CNMI will be aligned with [American Samoa] and [Puerto Rico]."

Sablan said that the local government will still be required to submit a budget for expenditure of the new money for approval by the Western Regional Office in order to begin drawing down the money. He said he had written Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to give him a heads-up on this requirement.

"My hope is that the Governor will budget the full $1.459 million for benefits and not remove anything for administrative costs," Sablan said. "Food stamp recipients in the Northern Marianas deserve the same 13.86 percent increases as food stamp recipients everywhere in the U.S."

The CNMI was scheduled to receive $10.7 million from the food stamp program in Fiscal Year 2009. Because of Sablan's efforts the CNMI will now get $12.1 million. ***(PR)***



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 4, 1999

Teno cites key achievements, challenges

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said restructuring the government under a tremendous fiscal pressure was his administration's key achievement, but added much has to be done to reduce deficit, diversify the economy, improve federal relations and carry out reforms as he leads the CNMI into the new millennium. In his report, the governor said much of his efforts focused on addressing dismal financial condition, inefficient bureaucracy and imminent federal takeover of local labor and immigration—problems he will have to cope with in his remaining years in office. "Our most important achievement is that we continue to survive and restructure to make our government run better—at less cost to our taxpayers," Tenorio said in his State of the Commonwealth address held at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Businessmen call for more reforms

Amid the economic crisis besetting the Northern Marianas, business groups believe that the CNMI government has been very slow in implementing measures that will improve the island's investment climate. Since he assumed power 16 months ago, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has been battling the effects of Asia's financial crisis on the tourism economy, renewed threats of a federal takeover on labor and immigration and the negative publicity in connection with allegations on labor abuses. "Considering all the problems that he has to hurdle, I think he has done a remarkable job. Improving the economy is something that does not happen overnight," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets.

June 4, 2001

Another gubernatorial tandem Pepero talks to Kumoi

After offering Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez to be his running mate which fizzled, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan is rumored to have asked Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero (Kumoi) to be his partner in the November polls. Mr. Guerrero is scheduled to meet with Mr. Sablan's supporters to discuss the proposal and other recommendations prior to making a decision. The senator told reporters Friday that Mr. Sablan extended the offer to him last week and he is seriously considering all options.

Pierce is new SCC president

Richard A. Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association has been elected President of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Thursday. "I plan to serve the business community and in turn the CNMI as a whole as best I can as President of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Pierce said. Having been active in Chamber affairs during the past few years, Mr. Pierce was also its vice president before his assumption of the presidency. He is currently the chairman of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee.

June 4, 2002

Japanese firm buys La Fiesta Mall

A Japanese company bought the La Fiesta Mall in San Roque from Japan Airlines last month, amid a weak business scenario that forced several boutiques in the shopping center to close down. JAL, which also owns and operates Hotel Nikko-Saipan, signed the purchase contract with Coco's Lagoon Development Corporation last May 20, 2002, transferring the ownership of the 32,000-square-meter property in San Roque to the Japan-based firm. La Fiesta Mall General Manager Toshiro Arai explained that, although the structure had been sold to Coco's Lagoon Development, the management and administration of the shopping mall remains with JAL.

Sex offender remanded to jail

Joseph Diaz Sablan, convicted of oral copulation and sexual abuse of a child, will be remanded to police custody starting Wednesday, June 5, pursuant to a Superior Court order directing him to report to jail pending his sentencing on June 20. The Attorney General's Office, through prosecutor Aaron Romano, had asked the court to remand Sablan to the Division of Corrections, after the 29-year-old was tried and convicted last month of criminal oral copulation and sexual abuse of a 15-year-old high school girl. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted the Commonwealth's motion last week, stating that the court must follow the mandate of the statute cited under Section 6402(b) of the Commonwealth Code over the rule of court as indicated under Rule 46(c) of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Keeping an eye on 'sexting'

Let's talk about "sexting." It's the practice of teenagers, usually girls, sending nude or semi-nude photos of themselves, often to boys, usually by cellphone. And it's common: 20 percent of teens participating in a survey by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy had either sent or posted nude pictures of themselves.

Those for whom this trend is news might be wondering: Whatever happened to streaking? Or mooning? Or skinny-dipping? If the pranks and peccadilloes of previous generations seem more innocent, they certainly were less fraught with life-altering consequences.

Today's kids are learning the hard way that the digital age has created a mass audience for every ill-judged tap of the "send" button. Boys used to kiss and tell, and a girl would get a "reputation." Now girls reveal and boys show and tell, leading to public humiliation and far worse.

Take the heartbreaking case of Jessica Logan, an 18-year-old Ohio teen who sent nude photos of herself to her boyfriend. After they broke up, he forwarded the pictures to hundreds of other high school girls, and Jessica was harassed relentlessly. Last July, she hanged herself in her closet, her cellphone on the floor nearby.

Forwarding nude pictures isn't just cruel. It can be illegal if the pictures are of children under age 18, as schools and parents across the country have learned when prosecutors became involved. But doing something about sexting begins with disagreement about what precisely to consider it. Is it child pornography? An exercise of free speech? A school disciplinary matter? The parents' responsibility? Logan's mother is fighting for a national School and Family Education About the Internet Act (SAFE Internet), which would provide funding for new and existing Internet-safety programs for children, parents and educators. That's one approach. Another, being debated in Ohio, is to reduce penalties for sexting teenagers to those of a first-degree misdemeanor, sensibly distinguishing between an act of juvenile irresponsibility and one of depraved distribution of child pornography.

By sexting, to quote one expert, teens are giving themselves "cyber tattoos" for life. So although it may be necessary to bring charges in the most egregious cases, that shouldn't be the rule. Education and attentive parenting will go further toward addressing this worrisome trend than new laws and tough prosecutions.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

State of the Commonwealth Address

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address, which he delivered on May 27, 2009, at the House of Representatives' chamber on Capital Hill.

Third of a five-part series

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno R. Fitial is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Another aspect of our initial budget challenge involved the payment of subsidies for CUC. This was particularly true when Public Law 15-94 was passed through a legislative override. As you may recall, this is the law that forced CUC to charge lower, below cost rates during a period of record high oil price spikes. This was a financially devastating policy that threatened to ruin CUC. Fortunately, the Legislature amended the policy and fuel prices eventually abated. But we were still faced with a serious cash flow problem at the time.

CUC's cash flow problem was also compounded by a failure of its capital equipment. We were faced with massive engine failures and inadequate capital and cash flow to meet the challenge. This was never clearer than in the summer of 2008, when the CNMI suffered massive rolling blackouts, arguably to an extent never before experienced. This massive failure was the result of years of mismanagement and a protracted failure to properly maintain CUC's engines.

We had a serious CUC crisis on our hands and we rose to the challenge. We declared a state of emergency and secured funding from the U.S. Department of Interior to rehabilitate the engines. I hired Tony Muna. Tony Muna hired Wallon Young. We successfully rehabilitated the engines. And, with legislative approval, we secured MPLT financing to secure temporary Aggreko generators to finally end the rolling power outages. We cleaned up CUC.

Critics were initially skeptical of Aggreko, but Aggreko saved the CNMI from the dark and now we won't need Aggreko for much longer. We fixed our power plants and we will soon generate adequate reserves to keep our power flowing and end the constant state of emergency for CUC.

Let me be clear about what happened with CUC. We faced a meltdown with our power plants. We had a real crisis—a real emergency. Our airport operations were compromised. Our hospital was compromised. Our tourism industry was at risk. We did not have reliable power. We fixed this problem. By September 2009, CUC will be capable of producing 67 megawatts of power generation capacity to meet the 40 megawatts of peak demand, providing a more than adequate margin of safety and reserve capacity.

We have also cleared CUC's books and bolstered its balance sheet by securing a debt to equity conversion agreement from the Commonwealth Development Authority. This clears the way for CUC bridge financing and opens the doors to legitimate privatization options down the road.

Unfortunately, our efforts to privatize CUC have failed due to an OPA decision and differences with the Legislature, but this option should remain open for the future, because our local government has historically not proven to be a good steward of CUC.

Although our power production crisis is on the verge of final resolution, developing alternative energy sources to replace or reduce reliance in fossil fuel power production will be a focus going forward. On June 22nd, CNMI Energy Office along with EPA will host an energy summit to explore viable alternative energy options in the CNMI.

The power production crisis has not been the only challenge facing CUC. On March 11, 2009, two stipulated orders were formally approved by the US District Court against CUC for years of violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. The stipulated orders cover three areas of operations: water, wastewater, and fuel & lube oil management and disposal. To date, CUC has complied with both stipulated order requirements. At stake here is the CNMI's public health and welfare, plus the protection of our environment. We will continue our efforts.

Federalization

On top of our budget crisis and CUC crisis, we are challenged by federalization: by the federalization of our immigration and minimum wage rates. This is probably our greatest economic challenge today.

A few people are unduly fixated on our 903 lawsuit rather than the reasons behind the lawsuit. Given the significant economic harm presented by federalization, I am disappointed that more members of our Legislature did not get behind our efforts to oppose federalization and support our 903 lawsuit. As elected leaders of this Commonwealth, we swore to uphold our Constitution and our Covenant agreement with the United States. I believe I am honoring my oath of office by properly bringing this matter to the attention of the federal courts, as provided for in Section 903 of our Covenant, and I look forward to the resolution of this case.

To be continued.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Zen and the art of the baby swing

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

While anticipating the birth of our second grandchild, the children put together a cradle swing. This wasn't one of those ordinary swings that have to be noisily cranked up every 15 minutes to give blessed relief to both baby and parents. It was a Zen collection cradle swing that offers a perfect balance between comfort and function, and was "inspired by nature in all its beauty and simplicity."

When little Mikael Irainapu (king of surf) comes into the world he'll begin his wave-riding lessons in a richly textured, two-position cradle seat that includes a velour blanket, variable soothing speeds in swing or cradle mode, 14 songs in Zen musical style, plus two nature sound tracks, wooden handles, and a mobile that will float and sway with Mikael's movement as he rides the big one. By the way, the standard turtle and butterfly mobile is being replaced with one that has mini surfboards on it. Hey, you can't start training the king of surf too early.

The Zen cradle brought back memories of the book, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. It was written by Robert Pirsig in 1974, about the time I purchased my first motorcycle. Pirsig recounts a 17-day, motorcycle journey across the U.S. with his son and a couple of friends. The trip, and particularly his maintenance of an older motorcycle are used as a backdrop to explore the metaphysics of quality where he argues that Western rationality is just as important in seeking understanding as Eastern romanticism. In fact, he believes that rationality and technology can harmoniously coexist with the Zen-like quality of "being in the moment" to create a higher quality of life.

This brings us back to the Zen cradle that blends technology and function with comfort and style. Mikael will be soothed in softness that includes soft fabrics, soft sounds, and the soft gentle motion of swaying surfboards so he can get in touch with the universe and achieve an inner peace of mind (i.e. not cry as much).

The point is not to sell you on a baby cradle, but to use it as a backdrop to explain the importance of finding or developing products that meet your customers true needs. I'm sure that when the Zen-cradle-people were thinking about a new design for a swing, they envisioned the ideal product that would be both functional and beautiful. There were probably a lot of surveys, focus groups, and brainstorming sessions to design a product that would exceed the expectations of parents and provide the physical and neurological stimulation for younglings.

Products are the glue that connects customers to your business. If you have weak or shoddy products, you will have a weak bond to keep them as your customers. People consider price when they shop, but what they really want is value, and if your products or services offer greater value, they will buy from you.

Here are some things you can do to increase the actual or perceived value you offer. Demonstrate that your product reduces expenses, lasts longer, performs better, saves time, improves health, creates wealth, or is better than anything that anyone else offers. After you've made a list of all the value enhancing features and benefits, you will notice that many of them are quantifiable, functional, and rational.

Now you should also consider some Zen-like qualities that will appeal to those who emphasize beauty, quality, and emotional appeal. This is more difficult because it means you have to get inside your customers' head and heart to understand what quality and value really mean to them. This could include things that produce more positive experiences or reduce negative experiences. You may find that your customers value greater comfort, personal attention, status appeal, improved self-esteem, attractiveness, romantic feelings, or peace of mind.

These are qualities that are more difficult to quantify, but each customer has a set of criteria they use to evaluate the quality and value of your offering. By talking to them, and making careful note of their verbal and nonverbal responses, you will form a picture of what they really want. The best businesses move beyond just the rational features and benefits of their products to offering something that also embraces the emotional, spiritual, or metaphysical enhancements that customers truly value.

If the parents of a newborn believe that their little dude will be a happier baby and a better future surfer by riding in a Zen cradle, then the sale is already made in their mind. When Mikael Irainapu grows up to become the undisputed king of surf, he may even give some credit to his early mental focus and Zen training while in his baby swing.

Hotels and bells

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.

Ah, the memories. It was January 1989 when the events about to be expanded upon occurred. The event? The tolling of wedding bells and my marriage to my current wife of now some 20 years. It was a happy day punctuated by a traditional church ceremony.

The reception was held at the nearby Grand Hotel in Susupe. And it was grand at the Grand. The service was good, the food was good, the champagne better, the weather cooperated, and my new wife and I were looking forward to the long weekend we'd arranged.

The above mentioned weekend was to be at the—you guessed it—Grand Hotel. Even in those earlier days there were quite a few hotels lining the lagoon, but we chose the Grand because of the—for us—atmosphere of the place. It had all of the prerequisites: the lawns, pool, beach, restaurants—all of it. But for me especially it was the service and the small amenities that made the Grand the right choice.

The late '80s were admittedly a different era. Prosperity was the norm, and if one avoided reading the newspapers of the day, one could well believe that Saipan was indeed the ideal place to pitch one's tent for the long haul. Well, and we have.

We are no longer living in the late '80s. Prosperity has been replaced by serious desperation for many. Few would maintain that they are better off now than they were even a few short years ago. The number of boarded up shops lining Middle Road and even Beach Road are actually shocking. I like to take long walks on the beach path every day, mainly to think but also to burn a few calories—the eternal battle of the waistline. Anyone recall the Hakubotan department story or Wendy's? They're still there or rather their long dead shells are still there.

But, defying the downturn in the economy, the hotels on the lagoon are, if not thriving, still doing well. And, the Grand Hotel still holds, for my wife and I, a kind of ongoing nostalgia. It's our place or so we do think it. But it is not the same as it was in '89.

We spent last Christmas Day at the Grand. This year so far we've spent Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day there; we and are planning to do the same for Father's Day. These in spite of what appears to be a lessening of quality at the hotel overall. Put another way, each recent experience is proving to be a little bit less satisfying than has been the case in years gone by.

The restaurants seem understaffed, the food is still good, but the lines are getting long and the food trays seem to be more than half empty a lot of the time. The help are still among the most caring we have encountered anywhere, but they are clearly hard pressed to maintain the quality levels we expect from a first-rate establishment like the Grand.

Our recent Mother's Day experience is a case in point. We had made a reservation, as is our habit, but when we arrived, they had no record of it. Still, the clearly harassed but nevertheless classy workers that still make it the place to go to, at least for us, moved heaven and earth to find us a table—it was very crowded. The table? A table for eight! We were seated at a table for eight people; it was all that was left. We felt a little funny sitting there, but it was okay.

We hardly saw our waitress and had to ask for condiments and drink refills. Twice I had to get up to find a staffer for service. They were very apologetic and made no excuses. The Grand is a great place. But, with business still good on holidays, one can hope to a return to the salad days of an earlier era—at least in terms of staffing. Our hope is for it to be once again to be grand to stay at the Grand.

What the UN can't ignore in Burma

By PEDRO NIKKEN and GEOFFREY NICE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The trial of the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi, has once again catapulted events in Burma onto the front pages of newspapers around the globe. The leader of Burma's struggle for human rights and democracy has been charged with violating the terms of her house arrest after an American citizen swam across a lake and broke into her home last month. Heads of state from Asia and the West, celebrities, and U.N. leaders such as human rights chief Navi Pillay have responded strongly, demanding not only an end to the trial in Burma's kangaroo courts but the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for 13 of the past 19 years.

While the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi, without trial, has long been denounced, a less-publicized travesty has been under way in Burma for much of the past 15 years. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First and Amnesty International have reported on the crimes against humanity and war crimes committed under the rule of Burma's military regime, including the recruitment of tens of thousands of child soldiers and attacks on ethnic minority civilians. The former U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, reported last year that he had received information indicating that the military regime had destroyed, forcibly displaced or forced the abandonment of more than 3,000 villages in eastern Burma, where ethnic minorities predominate. At least 1 million people fled their homes as a result of the attacks, he said, escaping as refugees and internally displaced persons. This is comparable to the number of villages that have been harmed in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Inexplicably, the U.N. Security Council has not systematically investigated these abuses, which probably rise to the level of crimes against humanity and war crimes. So a group of jurists from the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa—of which we were part—commissioned a report by the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School to determine whether the United Nations is sufficiently aware of the seriousness of the charges and willing to pursue justice. The Harvard team—relying only on U.N. documents and not information from human rights groups—examined four international human rights violations documented by U.N. bodies over the past 15 years: sexual violence, forced displacement, torture and extrajudicial killings.

It found that, indeed, the United Nations is well aware that such abuses are taking place in Burma. Numerous U.N. special rapporteurs, the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (now Human Rights Council), and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women have repeatedly documented and cited human rights abuses that rise to the level of crimes, using language such as "widespread" and "systematic," which are key elements to proving the existence of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Harvard report noted that the United Nations has acknowledged that rights abuses in Burma have taken place with impunity. Moreover, U.N. reports observe that most often the Burmese military commits these grave human rights abuses. Key U.N. experts have acknowledged that there is no independent judiciary in Burma, with Tomas Ojea Quintana, U.N. special rapporteur on human rights, stating as recently as November that "There is no independent and impartial judiciary system" in Burma.

Tragedies such as last year's cyclone and this spring's sham trial inevitably draw the world's eyes to Burma. We should maintain our gaze. Given that the United Nations is aware of the scale and severity of rights abuses in Burma, it is incumbent on the Security Council to authorize a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma. In previous, similar cases—such as the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Darfur—the council voted to create such a commission to investigate charges and recommend actions. So many U.N. bodies have documented severe human rights abuses that such a move on Burma is not only justified but long overdue.

Geoffrey Nice was the principal prosecution trial attorney in the case against Slobodan Milosevic in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Pedro Nikken was president of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and is an executive committee member of the International Commission of Jurists.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼80°	▲86° ▼80°	▲87° ▼80°	▲87° ▼80°	▲88° ▼79°

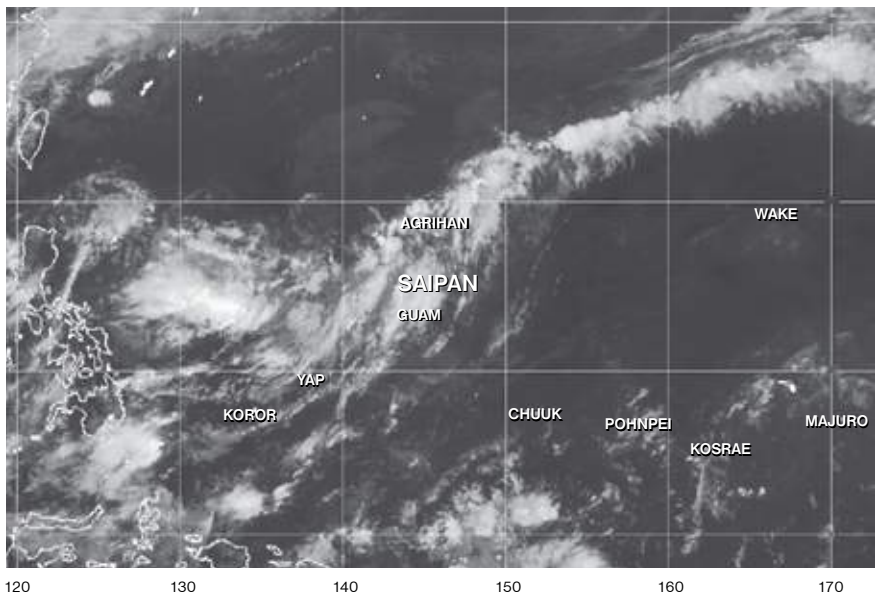
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57	▼41
Beijing	Hot	▲101	▼67
Hong Kong	Showers	▲87	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
New York	Showers	▲68	▼56
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼61
Paris	Sunny	▲65	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲80	▼62
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼58
Salem	Thundershowers	▲75	▼52
San Francisco	Showers	▲67	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲79	▼57
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼64
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs from east of Luzon near 18N130 to a point just west of the Marianas at 17N142E and then northeastward toward Minamitorishima at 25N155E. Scattered to numerous showers with isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 200 miles of the trough axis in the southwest flow which includes the Mariana Islands. Weak low-level easterly convergence is helping to enhance pockets of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Palau and within southern Yap state from 130E to 147E and south of 7N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within weak troughs in the trade-wind flow south of Chuuk between the equator and 2N from 149E to 155E and also in the Marshall Islands from 165E to 172E between 4N and 8N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:18 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:42 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:36 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:45 PM	2:42 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:24 AM
Saturday	5:32 PM	4:09 AM
Sunday	6:25 PM	4:56 AM
Monday	6:25 PM	4:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Survey: Saipan is 7th most satisfying destination

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, *Shape Magazine* director Korobova Inna, Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, and *Shape Magazine* journalist Papashenko Galina on tropical Rota, Northern Mariana Islands in May 2009. In the background is Wedding Cake Mountain.

Travelers that read a Korean travel publication have rave reviews for Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands over hundreds of other destinations.

According to a survey titled "Ask 2,113 Consumers" conducted by the *Korea Travel Times*, Hong Kong and Macao, which are famous Frequent Independent Travel—or F.I.T.— destinations, show a decrease in the number of package trips.

On the contrary, Saipan, and Southeast Asia are receiving more package tours from Korea. According to this same survey, Saipan is ranked 7th in the world's 2009 top 10 most satisfying destinations. Spain tops the list, followed by Malaysia, New Zealand, Macao, Turkey, Canada, Saipan, USA, Switzerland, and Singapore.

"The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota are beautiful places to visit," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "This survey shows that we're on the right track in letting Korean consumers know that our islands have a unique appeal that will make their vacation memorable."

Last fiscal year the number of Korean visitors to the Northern Marianas grew 19 percent over the previous year to 116,710. Although the Korean arrival trend has been negatively affected this fiscal year by the economic downturn, signs of economic recovery in Korea are projected for the second half of 2009. ***(MVA)***

Shape Magazine visits from Russia

A major Russian magazine reaching eight million readers will feature the Northern Mariana Islands in its July 2009 issue, following a recent familiarization tour by two staff members.

Director Korobova Inna and journalist Papashenko Galina of *Shape Magazine* visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last month to prepare for a six page feature in the monthly publication and an article on the magazine's website.

Shape Magazine targets women ages 25-35 with information on culture, travel, food and health. Published by Publishing House Veneto, the magazine circulates 250,000 copies.

"Russians continue to be interested in the Northern Marianas, and we're pleased to assist *Shape Magazine* in sharing our islands with their vast readership," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Russia continues to be an important market for us."

During their visit, the magazine team visited four local spas and two hotel water parks. They also caught a cultural dinner show, a Las Vegas-style dinner show, and a sunset dinner cruise. They took island tours of all three islands, enjoyed water sports at Managaha Island inside Saipan's lagoon, and snorkeled at cavern dive spot Grotto. Their tour also included the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture. Local and international fare was sampled at the annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden held at American Memorial Park each May.

The estimated value of the article is US$250,000. ***(MVA)***

Filipinos to mark RP's 111th Independence Day on June 7

This year's Philippine Independence Day celebration on Saipan will take place on June 7, 2009—five days ahead of the actual June 12 Philippine holiday.

The celebration will be held at the front grounds of the Marianas Business Park in Susupe this Sunday, at 7am. It will be the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence. The affair will be made more special by the joint celebration of the Migrant Workers' Day.

The event will kick off with the traditional flag-raising ceremony to be attended by representatives of the Filipino community and organizations along with officials and staff of the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration led by Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Consul Belinda M. Ante, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla and Welfare Officer Reynaldo D. Tayag.

OWWA will also be awarding its sponsors to the Tuloy Aral program during the event. Breakfast will follow after the program at the Filipino Workers' Resource Center, ground floor, Marianas Business Park, Susupe.

The celebration aims to unite and remind the Filipino community in the Northern Marianas of its Filipino heritage and its country's struggle for independence. Since Migrant Workers' Day will also be commemorated, the event will also celebrate the dedication and diligence of overseas Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas. ***(PR)***

Tinian students celebrate Tourism Month

Students on the island of Tinian marked Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands with activities in the field.

The Tinian High hospitality class of Erica Evangelista took their own familiarization tour on May 26, guided by staff of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The students spent several hours familiarizing themselves with the history and significant of numerous tourist sites, as well as their individual role in the preservation of the locations.

"The students took the same tour a tourist visiting Tinian would take," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "They were excited, as some of them were visiting the sites for the first time or learning new information about places they were already familiar with."

The FAM tour included Hinode Shrine, Blowhole, Runway Able, air raid shelters, Command Post, atomic bomb pits, Chulu Beach, Seabees Monument, Japanese cannon, Tinian Shrine and Suicide Cliff. The tour ended with lunch at Tachogna Beach.

The My WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club of Tinian Elementary took the same FAM tour on May 29.

On May 27, the Tinian High biology class of Nathaniel Hofschneider took to the ocean, cleaning trash threatening swimmers and sea animals at Tachogna Beach swimming area. The students removed non-biodegradable materials, including cans, metal, plastic and even pampers.

"Young people and tourism are both the future of the Northern Marianas, and we're pleased to support the Tinian school community in bring these two forces together during Tourism Month," said Tenorio. ***(MVA)***

Right, to mark Tourism Month, students of the Tinian High Marine Biology class clear the swimming area of trash and debris at Tachogna Beach on May 27.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below, students of Tinian High Hospitality class visit the Japanese cannon as part of a Tourism Month FAM (familiarization) tour led by Marianas Visitors Authority on May 26.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below right, metal and plastic were just some of the trash collected by students of the Tinian High Marine Biology class during their May 27 cleanup of Tachogna Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TB on our shores: A daunting situation for the Pacific Islands

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Every year over the past three years, an average of 1,500 new active tuberculosis cases (equivalent to 52 cases per 100,000 population) are reported from the Pacific island countries and territories.

The Micronesia subregion has the highest TB rate, with 140 cases per 100,000 population, followed by the Melanesia subregion, with 37 cases per 100,000 population, and Polynesia with 19 cases per 100,000 population.

TB rates in the Micronesia subregion are higher than rates reported in other subregions mostly due to high rates in Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia.

"TB remains a huge burden in the Pacific islands," said Dr Janet O'Connor, head of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's TB Section.

What is now alarming is the emergence of multidrug resistant TB, a strain of TB that is resistant to INH and Rifampicin, the two most powerful TB drugs available for the past 50 years.

A total of nine countries in the Pacific region, including New Zealand and Australia, have reported MDR-TB between 2005 and 2008. Chuuk alone has had 16 confirmed MDR-TB cases and 100 contacts since its MDR-TB outbreak in July 2008. The World Health Organization estimates that about 900 MDR-TB cases occur every year in Papua New Guinea.

The burden of MDR-TB and its potential to escalate in the region is a big concern. Even more disheartening is the significant risk that XDR-TB (Extensively Drug Resistant TB), a strain of TB that is virtually incurable, will develop if national TB programs fail to manage MDR-TB properly.

"Given the poor treatment outcomes and high case mortality for MDR-TB, the TB situation in the Pacific region can only get worse," added Dr O'Connor.

"The increasing HIV incidence reported in the region to date will no doubt fuel the ongoing MDR-TB epidemic witnessed in parts of the region today and the situation will be quite daunting.

"Our region is now at a crossroads where TB and HIV are colliding and non-communicable and communicable diseases are joining forces causing disability and premature deaths. TB and HIV programs and other partners must now reach beyond their programs and work together to address these two diseases and thus prevent MDR-TB," said Dr O'Connor.

The joint SPC and WHO meeting for TB and HIV program managers on May 23–26 in Nadi, Fiji Islands, brought together all TB and HIV/AIDS program managers and experts from around the Pacific region for the first time in a one-day combined meeting to agree on establishing meaningful collaborative activities. TB program managers also held a two-day meeting on strengthening the national directly observed treatment short-course (DOTS) foundation as the basis for MDR-TB prevention. ***(SPC)***

CNMI resident graduates from USD

Jackie Che, a former CNMI resident and a 2005 Mount Carmel School graduate, received her bachelor's degree in History on May 24, 2009. Che graduated with honors from the University of San Diego, California.

Che received honors in History and Anthropology, her minor, maintaining a 3.67 grade point average in History and a 3.9 G.P.A. in Anthropology.

Che has been accepted to USD's Master's program in Higher Education Leadership, and she plans to eventually receive an Ed.d in Education Administration.

"From the moment that I was aware of the university's devotion to global understanding, intercultural awareness, and efforts to build effective leaders, there was no hesitation on my part in wanting to pursue my graduate studies in my Alma Mater," said Che.

Che said the University of San Diego motivates students to toward leadership and social change.

"I have a deeply held commitment and appreciation for diversity and the impact that access to higher education has in uplifting lives in all communities," said Che. "With this degree, I hope to . . . effectively work for equity and opportunity for all students, minority and disenfranchised, no matter their age or position in life," she added.

Jackie Che is the daughter of Peter and Violeta Che. She is the niece of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Violeta Che is the younger sister of first lady Josie Fitial.

Gov. Fitial congratulated Che for her academic accomplishment and said that he was very proud to see CNMI students graduate from college and do well in the United States. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jackie Che, a former CNMI resident and a 2005 Mount Carmel School graduate, poses with her mother, Violeta, after graduating with honors from the University of San Diego, California on May 23, 2009. Second picture shows the new graduate posing with her aunt, CNMI first lady Josie Fitial.

Saipan student accepted into the People to People summit

Ciara Dela Cruz, a student on Saipan, will join a select group of students representing their schools, communities, and country as People to People student leaders.

Dela Cruz has been accepted into the People to People Leadership Summit in Harvard University - Boston, Massachusetts, June 28-July 4, 2009.

All students accepted into a People to People program must meet rigorous academic and leadership requirements. Dela Cruz was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

The People to People Leadership Summits bring together outstanding student leaders from around the globe to focus on leadership, team building, community service, college admissions, and professional aspirations. Students work on an action plan to make a difference in their communities, develop skills to help them lead tomorrow's world, and build their college resumes, while earning academic or service-learning credit.

Participants also gain insights to guide their educational and professional careers, and benefit from a strong focus on college admissions. Through workshops, presentations, excursions and discussions, student leaders attain a clear advantage as they pursue and fine-tune their selected fields of interest.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with admissions officers and gain valuable advice for navigating the college application process. In some locations, students will be able to tour several area universities.

The 2009 People to People Leadership Summits will convene at Columbia University; George Washington University; Johns Hopkins University; Harvard University; Stanford University; and University of California, Los Angeles.

The program is coordinated by People to People Ambassador Programs to fulfill the vision President Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956. For additional information visit www.lsleaders.org. ***(PR)***

Grant funds available for green energy projects

The USDA Rural Development has announced that applications are now being accepted for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

The REAP program is authorized in Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill. REAP offers grants and/or loan guarantees for the purchase and installation of renewable energy generating systems, and for energy efficiency improvements. Assistance is limited to rural small businesses and agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers. Non-profits and units of government are not eligible. Residential use is not allowed.

Projects must be located in a rural area, which includes the Northern Mariana Islands.

The program can be used to purchase and install renewable energy systems: solar, bioenergy (biomass, biogass), geothermal, wind, hydropower, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), and hydrogen.

Energy efficiency improvement projects can be in addition to a renewable system. It can include things such as retrofitting existing processing operations, replacing lighting/refrigeration/electric motors with more efficient equipment, and even building a more energy efficient facility (when the facility is used for the same purpose, is approximately the same size, and based on the energy audit will provide more energy savings than improving an existing facility).

REAP grants and guarantees may be used individually or in combination. Together they may finance up to 75 percent of a project's cost. Grants can finance up to 25 percent of project cost, not to exceed $500,000 for a renewable energy system and not to exceed $250,000 for an energy efficiency project. An applicant can even apply for both types of projects, obtaining a maximum grant of up to $750,000.

Applications for funding must be received on or before 4:30pm HST July 31, 2009. For the first time ever, there is a national set-aside for applications for grants less than $20,000. The reserve funds for these grants will be accessible to projects on the 15th and the last of day of each month through the application deadline date.

Also, requests for "reserve" funds for guaranteed loan-only and guaranteed loan/grant combination requests may be made at any time and will be allocated to projects on a competitive basis using priority scores of the applications on the 15th and the last day of each month.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Additional information about rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or on USDA's Web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

Friends of the Monument elect directors

A diverse group of individuals—a lawyer, a teacher, a dive instructor, a former president of the local college, a former director of the Division of Environmental Quality, a small business owner and a community organizer—have been elected as the first directors of the Friends of the Monument.

The Friends of the Monument previously had three officers, but the group is expanding as the role of their organization expands.

"Last year our main focus was building local support for the monument and showcasing that support to the decision makers in Washington, DC," explained director Ignacio Cabrera.

The organization has plans to set up as many as six committees to fulfill the vision they outlined in their October 2008 Vision Statement, but for now will focus on three areas: Outreach and Education, working with the local government, and working with the federal government.

"Our organization plans on being involved with the management of the monument," said director Agnes McPhetres. "It is so important that the people of the Marianas, and not just a handful of political appointees, get to have their say in how this monument is managed."

The new directors are Cabrera, McPhetres, Bryan Jones, Jane Mack, Laurie Peterka, Mike Tripp, and Angelo Villagomez. The directors will elect officers during their next board of directors meeting scheduled for this month.

The Friends of the Monument were the main proponents of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, a 95,000 square mile marine protected area designated by President George W. Bush on January 6, 2009. More information of the Friends of the Monument can be found online at http://marianamonument.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

BUDGET HEARING

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, second from right, throws questions at acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack (not shown) during the House Ways and Means Committee's hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget Tuesday afternoon. In photo are, from left, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Rep. Justo Quitugua, Rep. Stanley Torres, Yumul, and Rep. Ray Tebuteb.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CUC HEARING

Above, Rep. Tina Sablan, left, chairperson of the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee, addresses Bruce Megarr (not in photo), deputy director for water and wastewater of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., during a briefing on CUC's compliance with a federal stipulated order on Monday. Also in photo are Reps. Francisco Dela Cruz, center, and Ed Salas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

O HAPPY DAY!

Right, Happy Christening to baby Lance Peter, shown here with his parents as they continue their celebration at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW GRADUATE

Far right, Congratulations to Marie Quitugua, who graduated from PIMA Medical Institute in Arizona on May 29, 2009. In the photo is her husband, Oswald "OG", and daughter Vickeyo Marisse Quitugua. Greetings from the AZ Crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MINI-BALLET CONCERT

Anna Glushko and three of her students perform in the concert finale "Pa de Six" from *Sleeping Beauty* during the Glusko's Academy of Performing Arts annual fundraising concert held Sunday night at the Palms Resort Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

TRAINING FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

Above, Alejandro Badilles, right standing, and Arnold Route, back center, both of the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, pose with some of the participants at the conclusion of the Commercial Pesticide Applicators Training at Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe. The four-day training, sponsored by NMC CREES and the Division of Environmental Quality, aims to further hone the skills and knowledge of pesticide applicators on the principles of pest control and pesticide use safety, among other things.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NEW PROMOTION

U.S. Army Captain Clarence Tenorio, left, and newly promoted Sergeant James Hocog pose for a souvenir picture after a promotion ceremony on June 1 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Both CNMI soldiers are assigned to the 1101st Garrison Support Unit, Detachment 24.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DES CULTURAL DAY

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the C.A.B. Cultural Dance Group teach some dance steps to members of the audience during Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day festivities on Saturday.

Business

GM to sell Hummer to Chinese company

AP

Hummers on the lot at Tustin Hummer, a dealership in Tustin, Calif., Monday, June 1, 2009.

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. took a key step toward its downsizing on Tuesday, striking a tentative deal to sell its Hummer brand to a Chinese manufacturer, while also revealing that it has potential buyers for its Saturn and Saab brands.

China's Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Co. said Tuesday afternoon that it reached an agreement to acquire the brand from GM for an undisclosed ammount. The Detroit automaker had announced Tuesday morning that it had a memorandum of understanding to sell the brand of rugged SUVs, but it didn't identify the buyer.

Sichuan Tengzhong deals in road construction, plastics, resins and other industrial products, but Hummer would be its first step into the automotive business.

GM said the sale will likely save more than 3,000 U.S. jobs in manufacturing, engineering and at various Hummer dealerships. Tengzhong said it will assume GM's existing agreements with Hummer dealers.

"We will be investing in the Hummer brand and its research and development capabilities, which will allow Hummer to better meet demand for new products such as more fuel-efficient vehicles in the U.S," Chief Executive Yang Yi said in a statement.

As part of the proposed transaction, Hummer will continue to contract vehicle manufacturing and business services from GM during a transitional period. For example, GM's Shreveport, La., assembly plant would continue to contract to assemble the H3 and H3T through at least 2010, GM said. AM General LLC in Mishawaka, Ind., makes the larger H2 under contract for GM.

Obama said to be open to taxing health benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is leaving the door open to taxing health care benefits, something he campaigned hard against while running for president, according to senators who met with him Tuesday.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., raised the issue with Obama during a private meeting with the president and other Democratic senators and later reported the president's position: "It's on the table. It's an option."

The White House said later that Obama did not want to go that route.

"The president made it clear during the campaign that he has serious concerns about taxing health care benefits," Obama spokesman Reid Cherlin said in a statement. "He stated again his belief that health reform can't wait another year, and that while all options should be considered, those options should include the revenue proposals that he included in his budget."

The federal government would reap about $250 billion a year if it treated health care benefits given to employees like wages and taxed them.

Baucus and others are eyeing that money as they search for ways to pay for a costly health care overhaul that would extend coverage to 50 million Americans who are now uninsured. That could cost some $1.5 trillion over 10 years.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers above $68 as traders eye weaker dollar

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $68 a barrel Wednesday in Asia near a seven-month high as investors sought a safe haven in commodities from a weaker U.S. dollar and inflation. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up 9 cents to $68.64 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract slipped 3 cents to settle at $68.55. Oil prices have doubled since March amid signs that the worst of a severe recession in the U.S. may be over. Some investors are also concerned that the massive fiscal and monetary stimulus package unleashed this year will spark inflation and undermine the dollar, which has fallen sharply against the euro.

Judge to rule on Chrysler franchise terminations

NEW YORK (AP)—A bankruptcy judge will rule Wednesday on whether Chrysler can terminate the franchise agreements of 789 of its dealers as part of its ongoing restructuring. U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez is expected to hear testimony from Chrysler LLC executives, as well as dealers during the hearing. Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Chrysler maintains that it needs to reduce its dealer base to a leaner network of about 2,400 dealers in order to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as a stronger company.

Court reverses ruling on Starbucks tip lawsuit

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A California appeals court reversed a ruling that ordered Starbucks Corp. to pay millions in restitution to baristas who had to share their tips with shift supervisors. The 4th District Court of Appeal in San Diego ruled Tuesday that supervisors "essentially perform the same job as baristas," so they should get their fair share of collective tip jars. In 2004, former barista Jou Chau filed a class-action lawsuit against the Seattle-based coffee giant on behalf of more than 100,000 current and former baristas in California.

Nation

Sotomayor counters GOP critics over bias claims

WASHINGTON (AP)—Judge Sonia Sotomayor on Tuesday countered Republican charges that she would let her background dictate her rulings as Americans signaled a favorable first impression of President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court choice. A new Associated Press-GfK poll suggested that Americans have a more positive view of her than they did of any of former President George W. Bush's nominees to the high court. Half backed her confirmation.

As Sotomayor made her Senate debut with a series of private meetings, Republicans said they would prefer holding hearings on her nomination in September, which could cloud the speedy summertime confirmation Obama wants.

Sotomayor, who would be the high court's first Hispanic and its third woman, told senators she would follow the law as a judge without letting her life experiences inappropriately influence her decisions.

"Ultimately and completely, a judge has to follow the law no matter what their upbringing has been," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary Committee chairman, quoted the nominee as saying in their closed-door session.

Republicans are questioning how she would apply the law, noting her remark in 2001 that she hoped her decisions as a "wise Latina" would be better than those of a white male who hadn't had the same experiences. Obama has said she misspoke; some Republicans have called the comment racist.

Leahy, hoping to shepherd a smooth and quick confirmation for Sotomayor, asked her what she meant by her 2001 comment and said the judge told him: "Of course one's life experience shapes who you are, but ... as a judge, you follow the law."

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the committee, said Sotomayor used similar words with him as well, but he appeared to come away from the meetings unconvinced about her approach and whether she would be an "activist" who tried to set policy from the bench.

Police: W.Va. man may be linked to 5 slayings

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP)—A man who led authorities to two bodies with a package of handwritten notes and a two-hour audiotape killed himself Tuesday as deputies knocked on his motel room door to arrest him on murder and arson charges.

Police provided few details but said James Childers, 45, may have been involved in three other killings. The outgoing handyman, well known to both police and his neighbors, shot himself Tuesday morning in a room at the Town House West motel near this city of 16,000 about 125 miles north of Charleston.

Police discovered two bodies in rural areas late Monday and early Tuesday based on information Childers provided in the package mailed to Clarksburg Police Lt. Robert Matheny.

In it, Childers talked about his involvement in setting fire to his home and three other buildings on his street, and provided information on five homicides, including one that occurred in Clarksburg in July 2008, Detective Dave Wygal said.

However, Wygal and other officers stopped short of calling Childers' notes or tape a confession.

"We'll have to re-review that material. It is lengthy. Maybe we can answer that more accurately at a future date," Matheny said.

Skeletal remains were found Monday along state Route 57 in Barbour County. A second body was found buried Tuesday near Copen in Braxton County. Police said three more bodies may be buried nearby.

Man charged in death of Kansas abortion provider

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—An activist abortion opponent was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder in the death of late-term abortion provider Dr. George Tiller, and the prosecutor said the evidence in the case ruled out the death penalty. Scott Roeder, 51, was shown via a video link from the Sedgwick County Jail. He fiddled with the charging documents on a podium in front of him, and said "OK" three times as Judge Ben Burgess read the charges and explained the court process.

Burgess ordered Roeder to be held without bond and said he was not allowed to communicate with Tiller's family or two witnesses he allegedly assaulted. The judge told Roeder that he would be assigned a public defender.

"And I'll obviously be hearing from one of those lawyers between now—or do you know how long it will be before I hear from one of those lawyers?" Roeder said.

Within two days, the judge answered to Roeder's only question in the brief appearance. A preliminary hearing is set for June 16.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chicago officer convicted of battery on bartender

CHICAGO (AP)—A hulking Chicago police officer who claimed he pummeled a female bartender half his size because he thought he was in danger was found guilty Tuesday of aggravated battery. Judge John Fleming rejected Anthony Abbate's claim that he acted in self defense when he threw, punched and kicked Karolina Obrycka as she tended bar in February 2007 in an attack caught on a tavern security tape. The altercation happened after she refused to serve him more drinks. Abbate, 40, faces probation to up to five years in prison when he is sentenced June 23. He remained free Tuesday after Fleming denied a request to revoke bond.

10,000 bees crowd wing of plane at Mass. airport

DANVERS, Mass. (AP)—Maybe these bees were too tired to fly for themselves. A gang of honeybees landed on the wing of a plane used for flight school training at Beverly Airport. At first, the 10,000 or so bees swarmed over the left side of the aircraft, then landed on top of the left wing. The owner of the flight center called police, who said to call local bee removal expert Al Wilkins. Wilkins used a specially designed vacuum to suck the bees off the plane, and then relocated them to hives where they will produce honey. Wilkins guessed that the queen may have stopped to rest on the plane, and the other bees congregated around to protect her.

'Rockefeller' ex-wife says she made poor choices

BOSTON (AP)—At work, Sandra Boss was a dynamic, Harvard-educated executive who made $2 million a year and advised companies on complex business strategies. But at home, she was a "stupid" wife who believed her husband's fantastic lies about his past and allowed him to control almost every aspect of her life, she testified Tuesday at her ex-husband's kidnapping trial. "I'm not saying that I made a very good choice of husband," she said of the man she knew as Clark Rockefeller. "It's pretty obvious that I had a blind spot. "All I'm saying is that it's possible that one can be brilliant and amazing in one area of one's life and pretty stupid in another," she said.

Asia

NKorea assembling missile; South beefs up its defenses

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—North Korea is assembling a long-range missile capable of reaching Alaska, a news report said Wednesday, as the communist regime prepared to test-fire a barrage of missiles from both coasts.

The moves further heightened tensions in the region following North Korea's underground nuclear test last week, and came as speculation grows that leader Kim Jong Il has selected his third son as heir to the secretive communist dynasty.

At the border village of Panmunjom inside the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas, a military guide warned tensions are running deep.

"The possibility of armed provocation is higher than ever in the Joint Security Area," said the South Korean military guide taking journalists on a tour of the border area. He did not provide his full name saying he did not have permission to do so.

The guide also cautioned journalists not to "point at the North Koreans or make any gestures." On the North Korean side of the area, a lone guard could be seen standing with his arms to his side, just watching the journalist group.

The mass-market *JoongAng Ilbo* newspaper said Wednesday that a long-range missile—transported by train to the Dongchang-ni launch site near the North's northwest coast near China—is believed to have entered an assembly building.

US deaths rise in Afghanistan from last year

KABUL (AP)—U.S. deaths in Afghanistan have risen to 65 so far this year, up from 36 over the first five months of 2008—though U.S. and coalition troops have also killed hundreds more militants, an Associated Press tally shows.

As newly arriving Marines enter the violent Afghan south—the spiritual home of the Taliban and the country's major drug-producing region—the military said Tuesday that U.S. deaths will likely increase even further this summer.

"We're doing everything we can to ensure the deaths occur on the militants' side, but there is a potential there will be an increase in U.S. deaths," said Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan.

In Washington, the U.S general chosen to take over as commander of American and NATO troops in Afghanistan said he believes the war is "winnable, but I don't think it will be easily winnable." Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said at his confirmation hearing that avoiding civilian casualties is key to success.

Civilian deaths, long a contentious issue in Afghanistan, are also higher this year because of militant attacks and U.S. and NATO operations.

The latest U.S. death came Tuesday during an insurgent attack in the east that killed one soldier. On Monday, two roadside bombs ripped through two military vehicles in the same convoy, killing four Americans in Wardak, one province west of Kabul.

China rounds up dissidents, blocks Twitter

BEIJING (AP)—Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the bloody crackdown on Tiananmen Square this week, Chinese authorities have rounded up dissidents and shipped them out of town. Now, they've even shut down Twitter.

Along with their usual methods of muzzling dissent, the authorities extended their efforts Tuesday to silence social networking sites that might foster discussion of any commemoration of the events of June 3-4, 1989.

The action is a new sign of the government's concern of the potential of such technology in an authoritarian society where information is tightly controlled.

"There has been a really intensified clampdown on quasi-public discussion of awareness of this event," said Xiao Qiang, adjunct professor of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California-Berkeley, and director of The Berkeley China Internet Project.

"It's a discussion about where China is now and where China can go from here. So the authorities are making a major crackdown to block user-generated sites such as Twitter and show there is no right to public discussion," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Poisoned liquor suspected in 25 Indonesian deaths

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Twenty-five people, including four foreigners, have died over the past two weeks possibly after drinking homemade liquor laced with methanol on the Indonesian resort islands of Bali and Lombok, officials said Tuesday. Police spokesman Gde Sugianyar said that 20 others fell ill and were hospitalized after consuming home-brewed rice liquor, arak. He said two people had been detained in connection with the poisonings. American Rose Johnson, Briton Alan Colen, Rene Puper from the Netherlands and Rachel Craig from Ireland were among the dead, Ida Bagus Putu Alit, chief of forensics at Bali's Sanglah Hospital, told The Associated Press.

Lawyer: US man had no criminal intent in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An American facing trial for swimming to the home of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was motivated by religious fervor rather than criminal intent and should receive a light sentence, his lawyer said Wednesday. John W. Yettaw is being tried along with Suu Kyi, who is accused of allegedly violating the terms of her house arrest by allowing the American to stay for two days after he swam to her compound. Final arguments in the case, which has sparked international outrage, are scheduled for Friday. Both he and the Nobel Peace Prize laureate could face up to five years in jail.

Pakistani court orders Mumbai-linked cleric freed

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The founder of the group India blames for last year's Mumbai siege was ordered freed in a court ruling Tuesday that raised new tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors and drew criticism of Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism. The ruling to end the six-month house arrest of Hafiz Mohammed Saeed comes at a time when Washington and other Western allies would prefer that Pakistan focus on dislodging Taliban militants in the border region with Afghanistan—rather than its decades-old rivalry with India. It also comes as Richard Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, was due in Islamabad on Wednesday for talks on the month-old military offensive to drive Taliban militants from the Swat Valley region in the northwest.

World

Debris confirms crash of Air France Flight 447

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, Brazil (AP)—An airplane seat, a fuel slick and pieces of white debris scattered over three miles of open ocean marked the site in the mid-Atlantic Tuesday where Brazilian officials said Air France Flight 447 crashed. Brazilian military pilots spotted the wreckage, sad reminders bobbing on waves, in the ocean 400 miles northeast of these islands off Brazil's coast. The plane carrying 228 people from Rio de Janeiro to Paris went down in waters up to three miles deep Sunday night.

"I can confirm that the five kilometers of debris are those of the Air France plane," Defense Minister Nelson Jobim told reporters at a hushed press conference in Rio. He said no bodies had been found and there was no sign of life.

The effort to recover the debris and locate the all-important black box recorders, which emit signals for only 30 days, is expected to be exceedingly challenging.

AP

A Brazilian Air Force radar plane takes off to take part in the searching mission of the Air France flight 447 in Fernando de Noronha, 350 kms off the coast of Natal, in northeastern Brazil, Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

Al-Qaida criticizes Obama's upcoming Cairo speech

CAIRO (AP)—Al-Qaida's deputy leader on Tuesday criticized President Barack Obama's upcoming speech to the Islamic world in Cairo, saying it will not change the "bloody messages" the U.S. military is sending Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan. Al-Qaida has repeatedly lashed out at Obama since he was elected, a move some analysts believe indicates the terrorist organization is worried he will be effective in improving the U.S. image in the Muslim world.

Obama has pitched his speech at Cairo University on Thursday as a key part of that process.

"His bloody messages were received and are still being received by Muslims, and they will not be concealed by public relations campaigns or by farcical visits or elegant words," said Ayman al-Zawahri, al-Qaida's No. 2, in a new audio message posted on militant Web sites.

Al-Zawahri said the Egyptian officials who will welcome Obama are U.S. "slaves" and have turned the country into an "international station of torture in America's war on Islam." He was likely referring to suspected Islamic militants who have been captured by the U.S. and sent to Egypt for interrogation, a process known as rendition.

Military: Gitmo detainee dies of apparent suicide

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A Yemeni detainee at Guantanamo Bay has died of an apparent suicide, U.S. military officials said Tuesday. His is the fifth apparent suicide at the offshore U.S. prison, which President Barack Obama hopes to close by January. The Joint Task Force that runs the U.S. prison in Cuba said guards found Muhammad Ahmad Abdallah Salih unresponsive and not breathing in his cell Monday night.

In a statement issued from Miami, the U.S. military said the detainee was pronounced dead by a doctor after "extensive lifesaving measures had been exhausted."

The Yemeni prisoner, also known as Mohammad Ahmed Abdullah Saleh Al-Hanashi, had been held without charge at Guantanamo since February 2002. Military records show the alleged Taliban fighter was about 31.

The apparent suicide happened late Monday, but it was not revealed by the military until after a dozen journalists who were covering a military tribunal session left the base about midday Tuesday. A Defense Department official said the reason was that the Yemeni government had not yet been notified.

WORLD BRIEFS

Obama says Iran's energy concerns legitimate

LONDON (AP)—President Barack Obama reiterated that Iran may have some right to nuclear energy—provided it takes steps to prove its aspirations are peaceful. In a BBC interview broadcast Tuesday, Obama also restated plans to pursue direct diplomacy with Tehran to encourage it to set aside any ambitions for nuclear weapons it might harbor. Iran has insisted its nuclear program is aimed at generating electricity. But the U.S. and other Western governments accuse Tehran of seeking atomic weapons. "Without going into specifics, what I do believe is that Iran has legitimate energy concerns, legitimate aspirations. On the other hand, the international community has a very real interest in preventing a nuclear arms race in the region," Obama said.

Clinton says no consensus on Cuba at OAS

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton left an Organization of American States conference in the Honduras on Tuesday saying that the group has reached no consensus on moves to allow Cuba to rejoin. Clinton said before departing for Egypt to joint President Barack Obama that a frantic day of negotiations had failed to produce agreement among the 34 members on what to do about Cuba. But she said the talks would continue in her absence and that a deal could be possible. "At this moment there is no consensus and there is no agreement to take any action," she told reporters who accompanied her to Honduras and an earlier stop in El Salvador.

Environment

New solar plant may be worth its salt

By PETER PAE
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Just past the city of Barstow, Calif., on Interstate 15, Las Vegas-bound travelers can eye a tower resembling a lighthouse rising out of the desert encircled by more than 1,800 mirrors the size of billboards.

The complex is often mistaken for a science fiction movie set, but it is actually a power plant that once used molten salt, water and the sun's heat to produce electricity.

Now a storied rocket maker in Los Angeles' Canoga Park and a renewable energy company in Santa Monica on the west side of L.A. are hoping to take what they learned at the long-closed desert facility to build a much larger plant that could power 100,000 homes—all from a mix of sun, salt and rocket science once believed too futuristic to succeed.

The Santa Monica-based energy company SolarReserve has licensed the technology, developed by engineers at Rocketdyne.

"Molten salt is the secret sauce," said SolarReserve president Terry Murphy.

It is one of at least 80 large solar projects on the drawing board in California but the molten salt technology is considered one of the more unusual and—to some energy analysts—one of the more promising in the latest rush to build clean electricity generation.

"It's actually something we'll likely see in a few years," said Nathaniel Bullard, a solar energy analyst with New Energy Finance in Alexandria, Va. "It's moving along in a nice way and they have good capital behind it."

SolarReserve, which is financing and marketing the project, said it is currently working on agreements with several utilities to buy electricity generated from the plant. It hopes to have several announcements in a few months that could help jump-start construction of the first plant that would likely be on private land in the southwest, Murphy said.

The company last fall secured $140 million in venture capital.

The plant could begin operating by 2012 or early 2013. It would use an array of 15,000 heliostats, or large tilting mirrors about 25-feet wide, to direct sunlight to a solar collector atop a 600-foot-tall tower--somewhat like a lighthouse in reverse.

The mirrors would heat up molten salt flowing through the receiver to more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to turn water into powerful steam in a device called a heat exchanger. The steam, like that coming out of a nozzle of a boiling tea kettle—would drive a turbine to create electricity.

The molten salt, once cooled, would then be pumped back through the solar collector to start the process again. "The plant has no emissions, and if you have a leak or something, you can just shovel it up and take it home with you to use for your barbecue."

The heated molten salt can be stored for days if not weeks and then used to generate electricity at any time. Many other solar technologies only work when the sun is shining. Storing electricity in a battery works for cars and homes but not on a massive scale that would be needed to power thousands of homes.

"You can put that into a storage tank that would look much like a tank at an oil refinery," Murphy said. "We can store that energy almost indefinitely."

While there are high hopes for the technology, some environmentalists have criticized solar-thermal plants for requiring vast tracts of land as well as precious water for generating steam and for cooling the turbines.

The array of the mirrored heliostats for the SolarReserve plant would take up about two square miles. Transmission lines also would be needed to transport the power where it's needed. With dozens of solar, wind and geothermal projects planned for California's deserts, some fear that this unique habitat will be destroyed.

But SolarReserve officials said its plant would use one-tenth the amount of water required by a conventional plant and that mirrors will be "benign" to the environment.

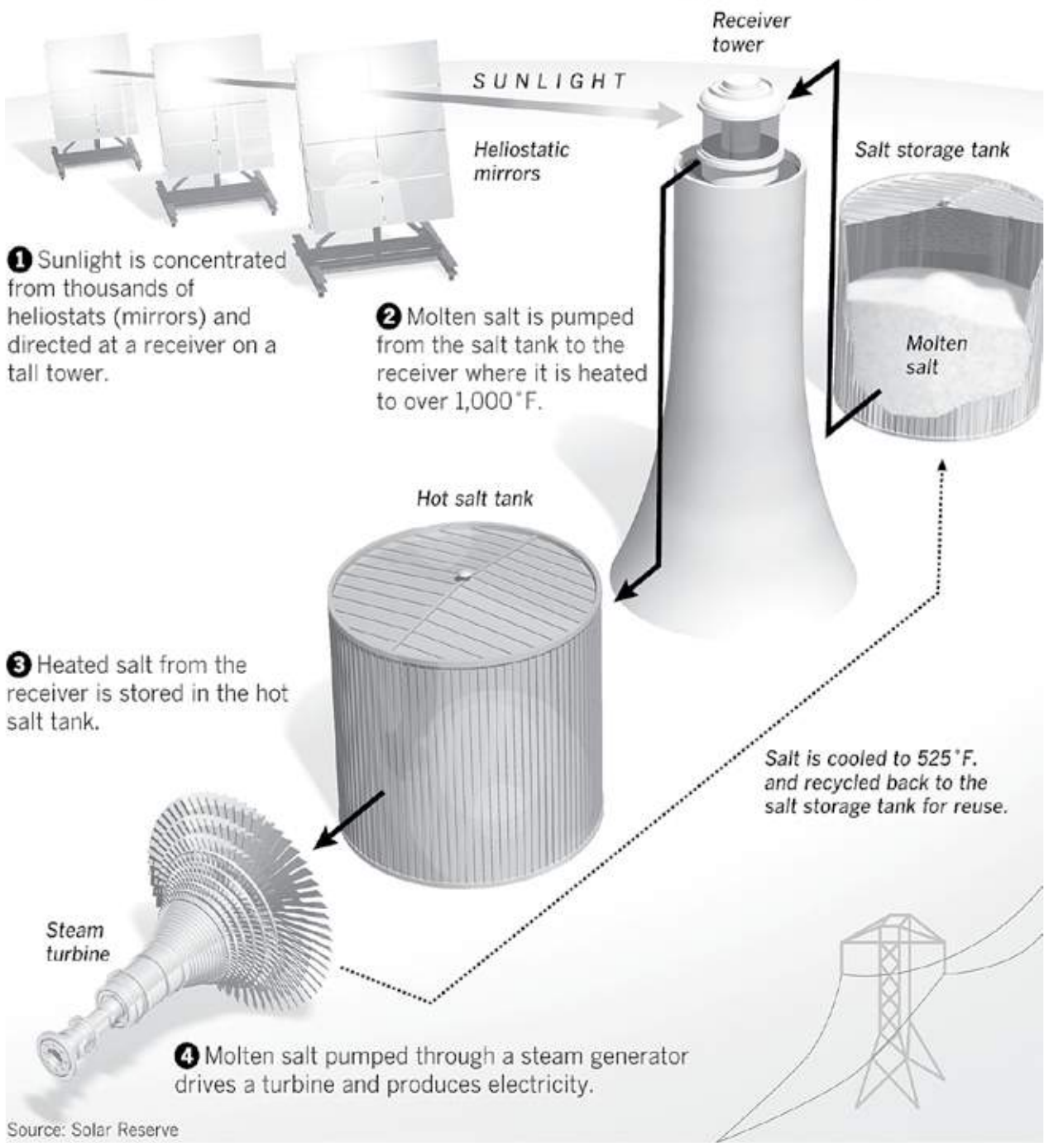
The technology, with the exception of using salt, is similar to those that Rocketdyne engineers developed for the nation's more notable space programs.

At the sprawling Canoga Park facility, the engineers that came up with the SolarReserve technology also developed the power system for the International Space Station, the rocket engine for the Space Shuttle, and the propulsion system for the Apollo lunar module.

Rocketdyne's aerospace heritage stretches back to the earliest years of rocket development when it was founded shortly after World War II to study German V-2 rocket technology. After becoming part of Rockwell International in the late 1960s, the company was sold to Boeing Co. in 1996.

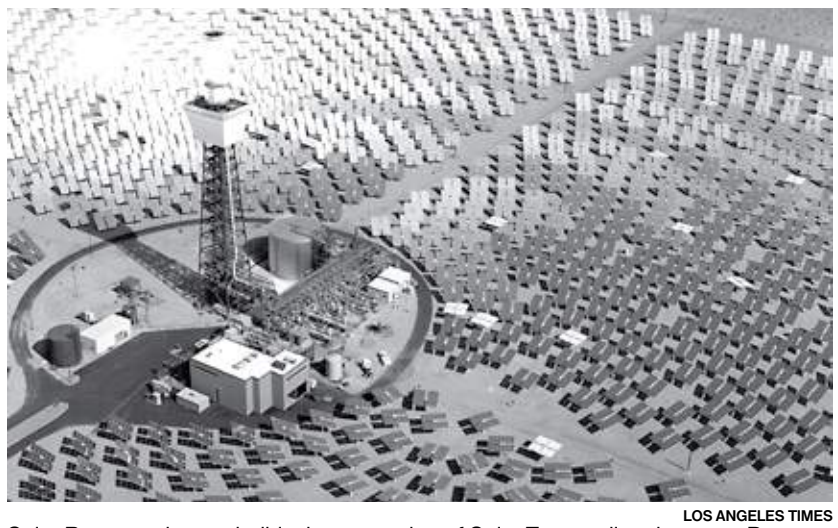
United Technologies bought the Rocketdyne unit from Boeing for $700 million in 2005 primarily for its expertise in rocket engines. It didn't know about the solar project until after the acquisition.

Now Rocketdyne believes it can generate $1 billion in additional revenue from making the components for the plant, including the tower that would collect the sun's concentrated heat from thousands of mirrors.


Spicing up power
New technology uses molten salt instead of coal or fossil fuels to generate electricity. How it works:
Receiver tower
SUNLIGHT
Heliostatic mirrors
Salt storage tank
Molten salt
1 Sunlight is concentrated from thousands of heliostats (mirrors) and directed at a receiver on a tall tower.
2 Molten salt is pumped from the salt tank to the receiver where it is heated to over 1,000°F.
Hot salt tank
3 Heated salt from the receiver is stored in the hot salt tank.
Salt is cooled to 525°F. and recycled back to the salt storage tank for reuse.
Steam turbine
4 Molten salt pumped through a steam generator drives a turbine and produces electricity.
Source: Solar Reserve

LOS ANGELES TIMES
New technology uses molten salt instead of coal or fossil fuels to generate electricity. Graphic shows how it works.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Solar Two, a pilot project near Barstow, proved more than a decade ago that power can be produced by using molten salt. A Santa Monica energy company is planning to build a larger version at an undisclosed desert site by 2013. The plant would generate power for 100,000 homes.



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Solar Reserve plans to build a larger version of Solar Two, a pilot plant near Barstow, Calif., that uses the sun, mirrors and molten salt to produce electricity.

Open beach days remain steady

WASHINGTON—For the third consecutive year, the nation's coastal and Great Lakes beaches were open 95 percent of the time during the swimming season in 2008 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced in its annual beach report.

The latest report also shows that state and local governments continue to make progress in notifying the public about beach water quality. The states use their EPA grant funds to gather and share beach water quality information with beachgoers to help them make more informed decisions.

The report summarizes state and territorial data on beach closures and health advisories from the previous year's swimming season.

As authorized by the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000, every year EPA provides grants to coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and eligible tribes to monitor their coastal and Great Lakes beaches, and to notify the public when water sampling identifies potential health problems.

To date, EPA has awarded more than $82 million in BEACH Act grants to help protect beachgoers.

More information about the report and EPA's beach program: http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches. ***(EPA)***

Life & Style

Dreyfuss promotes a return to civility, civics

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Of all the causes actors have chosen to champion, Richard Dreyfuss admits his passion lacks, well, a certain pizazz: Civics.

"Don't call it 'civics' because 'civics' is easily the most boring word in America," Dreyfuss says. "Call it what it is: political power."

Dreyfuss brings an actor's dramatic pacing and a historian's licks to his cause, erasing any notion that this lesson will be boring. He's bombastic, predictably brash and yet professorial during a 90-minute interview in a bland hotel suite in this seaport, where he was honored at a film festival earlier this year.

Dreyfuss

Kicked out of college for confronting a professor who criticized Marlon Brando's performance in "Julius Caesar," Dreyfuss recently studied at St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford to develop a curriculum for U.S. public schools.

Called The Dreyfuss Initiative, the curriculum would use scholarly presentations in videos and the Oscar-winning actor "as a storyteller, to engage, enlighten and empower students of all ages in an entertaining way," according to an outline. Dreyfuss said he would work with civic and educational groups to promote the teaching tools.

While the program has not been used in any classroom yet, Dreyfuss has launched a fundraising campaign to produce videos and the curriculum.

"I've got a very simple thing here," Dreyfuss said. "I've got a nonprofit initiative to get K-12 grades back to civics, to give our children real-world knowledge and hopefully wisdom about how to run this complex governance system. That's it. That's enough."

These days, Dreyfuss devotes most of his public appearances addressing the origins of our nation and lamenting a citizenry that he believes has lost its way.

"I stopped defining myself as an actor and I went to Oxford because I believe that America is a miracle," Dreyfuss said. "And I think that there is nothing easier in the world than for us to lose this miracle and to be reduced to words on paper."

Dreyfuss fears just that—that future generations will view our freedoms as a fairy tale.

"It'll break my heart, and it should break yours," he said.

Dreyfuss, 61, blames a lack of civil discourse, the din of television and any number of distractions for moving us away from understanding our origins as a nation.

Marley recruits family members for 'Family Time'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ziggy Marley wants to get in touch with the future leaders of our nation: That's why his latest release is a children's CD.

"Family Time," released last month, is a reggae-flavored kids album that Marley hopes will connect with those he says can best evoke change.

The disc features vocals from three generations of Marleys: Ziggy's 3-year-old daughter, Judah; his mother (and Bob Marley's widow) Rita; and sister Cedella. Outside of the Marley household, the album also has guest appearances from Paul Simon, Jack Johnson, Willie Nelson and Jamie Lee Curtis.

The Associated Press: Why did you decide to record a children's album?

Marley: I want to get the message to people who have an open mind, who don't have closed mind, who's not already set in their ways, and the only people like that are children. If I say my purpose is to make music that is going to make a change in the world or influence people, then who better to influence than children?

AP: There are a number of different guests on the CD.

Marley: There are so many people I could ask, but it's people who I felt, people who I feel would add something to the music. This is not a publicity stunt or a marketing plan, it's a heartfelt thing for children and the record is for children, trying to teach children things and inspire children. I don't like asking people favors, but because this was for kids, I was much more comfortable going out and saying, "What you think about doing this thing?"

AP: When you listen to "Family Time," does it remind you of your childhood?

Marley: In Jamaica, when we had independence celebrations; there's a whole cultural program that goes on that kids get involved with and we used to be involved in that. And on this record, I did a song called "Hold 'Em Joe," which is a traditional Jamaican cultural song, (and) that was the first song that I ever sung in front of an audience.

AP: What do you recall learning about music from your father when you were growing up?

Marley

Marley: My father more didn't tell me, we more experienced it because usually what he would do is call you very roughly, "Hey, come sing!" ... We would sing with him when he was writing songs.

AP: You have five children. Do you see any of them becoming musicians in the future?

Ziggy: They're already musicians. I love what I see, and it's real. They're not trying, they really have something. Where they get it from, I don't know, but they have something. It's beautiful to see that and that's not just because I am their father. Whether they eventually do it, I don't know, but they have it.

AP: What other kinds of music would you like to explore?

Marley: I want to explore more African music. I'm into African music so I want to explore it more and see what I can do with it. I like the grooves, I like the hypnotic thing about African music. I want to see if I could eventually one day blend more African into this reggae thing and see what happens.

In Loving Memory

†BERNADITA DELA CRUZ ATALIG MANGLONA

July 30, 1935 – May 30, 2009

Bernadita A. Manglona of Rota, wife of **Prudencio Taisacan Manglona** and mother of

Vincent & Benita (Dean, Donovan, MaryAnn [Devan], Bernadita, Priscilla),
Paul & Lydia (Deanna, Paul Jr., Denn, Pauline),
John & Ramona (Dencio, Savana),
Charles & Lorna (Mark [Esme'], Craig, Donald, Oliver, Charlene),
Priscilla & William S. Torres (Nicole, Verne, William, Karena Lei, Duane),
†**Roy**,
†**Francisco** (Norma Mae [Aleina Dee] and Carlo),
Prudencio Jr. & Sharon (Chanelle, Prudencio IV, Vincent, Alana, Roy, Deon),
†**Norma Mae**, and
Thomas (Sirena [Dravin], Mona, Thomas II, Samantha), and
reared children **Rosie A. & Patrick M. Ogo, and Julie O. & Ross S. Manglona,**

passed away at Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 30, 2009.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her brothers, sisters, and in-laws:
Antonio DlC. & Maria S. Atalig, Dolores A. Cabrera, Teresita A. & Juan M. Barcinas, Vinancio DlC. & Maria Q. Atalig, Baltazar DlC. & Dolores C. Atalig, Blas DlC. & Mariquita Atalig, Antonio T. & Engracia O. Manglona, Benjamin T. & Maria R. Manglona, and Maria M. Celis

In her new life, she joins her parents and parents-in-law:
†Vicente Mendiola Atalig & †Josefa Dela Cruz Atalig, and †Prudencio Mendiola Manglona & †Maria Taisacan Manglona,

and in-laws: †Dionicio Ch. Cabrera, †Magdalena M. Manglona, and reared brother-in-law †Augustin M. Celis

She is also survived by numerous godchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Daily mass is being offered at **6:00 a.m.** at San Francisco de Borja Church, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, and Kristo Rai Church, and at **7:00 p.m.** at San Isidro Church in Rota. Rosary is being prayed at San Francisco de Borja Church at **7:30 p.m.**

The mass of Christian burial will be on **Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** at San Francisco de Borja Church in Songsong, Rota. Interment will follow immediately at the San Jose Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Prudencio T. Manglona and Family

Cowell spokesman: Boyle recovers; career on track

LONDON (AP)—Susan Boyle is getting better after an anxiety attack caused by the pressures of her overnight fame and celebrity judge Simon Cowell plans to help her launch a professional career, Cowell's spokesman said Tuesday.

The Scottish songbird who finished second in the "Britain's Got Talent" competition landed in a London hospital Sunday night after suffering what one of her brothers described as severe anxiety.

Show judge Amanda Holden and Max Clifford, who represents Cowell, both said Boyle should recover her equilibrium fairly quickly now that she is getting treatment. Holden said Boyle does not have any underlying mental problems.

Clifford said Cowell, the mogul who helped create the show, plans to work with Boyle after she is better to make sure her career gets off to a good start.

"She is recovering well," Clifford told The Associated Press after speaking by telephone to Boyle's two brothers. "They are saying they weren't surprised by what happened, due to the speed of everything that happened, with her getting worldwide fame in seconds. Provided she's given a few days and then allowed to be as normal as possible, she should be fine. All she wants to do is sing."

The cutthroat show continued to draw criticism in the British press Tuesday for its cavalier attitude toward the well-being of participants, and Britain's independent Ofcom agency, which handles complaints about broadcasting, said an investigation is possible. But attention shifted to

Boyle

speculation about Boyle's future, with most predicting commercial success but some saying she would have a hard time attracting a paying audience.

Clifford, who has represented many of Britain's biggest stars, said there is little doubt that there is a public appetite for Boyle. He said her mental stability should not be an impediment provided she is surrounded by people she trusts, either her brothers or close friends from Blackburn, Scotland, her longtime home.

"It shouldn't be too difficult to get it under control," he said. "She's going to have potentially huge album sales, particularly in America. Americans absolutely love her. Everyone wants her on their show singing. That gives her massive potential, and Simon will make sure she has the best songs and the best productions."

Her brothers have also said she wants to continue her singing career despite the problems in the last few days.

It is not clear yet whether Boyle will be well enough to take part in a 17-show "Britain's Got Talent" concert tour set to begin on June 12. Organizers said Tuesday they expect Boyle to perform along with the other nine finalists, but no final decision has been made.

Promoters believe that if she recovers fully her real money-making potential will be realized in the United States, where she has become a YouTube sensation and been featured on TV shows hosted by Oprah Winfrey and Larry King.

"I don't think this collapse would hurt her, especially in America, where they love redemption stories," said concert promoter and publicist Gerry Lyesight. "As long as she recovers fully, she goes back to where she was. You have to assume there's an audience since she got over 100 million YouTube hits. Even if only 1 percent of them are fans, that's still 1 million people."

He said his choice would be to present Boyle in smaller venues seating 2,000 to 3,000 fans rather than place her in football stadiums, where she might feel intimidated by the size and scope of the crowd.

"That's what I would do, but it may be they are going for the fast buck," he said.

Some experts, however, believe Boyle's success on a free television show will not easily translate into a paying audience once she turns pro.

"There are questions of if she is a flawed jewel and it will cost too much to polish her up," said Mark Borkowski, a publicist and author. "In the Internet world you can explode overnight, and she can spread with Twitter and YouTube, but that's not going to make her money. The question is whether people will pay the dollar, or two dollars, or 10 dollars or more to see her perform, and I don't think they will."

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UP

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Edgar Asner, Paul Eiding
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Carl Fredricksen is a 78 year old balloon salesman who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip—an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell.

Drag Me To Hell

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Alison Lohman, Justin Long
Drama, Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Christine Brown is an ambitious L.A. loan officer with a charming boyfriend, Professor Clay Dalton. Life is good until the mysterious Mrs. Ganush arrives at the bank to beg for an extension on her home loan. Should Christine follow her instincts and give the old woman a break? Or should she deny the extension to impress her boss, Mr. Jacks, and get a leg-up on a promotion?

★ ★ ★

Terminator Salvation

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Night at the Museum 2

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Dance Flick

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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AP

In a photo provided by NBC Conan O'Brien , right, interviews Will Ferrell as O'Brien makes his debut as the host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" Monday June 1, 2009 in Universal City, Calif.

Conan on 'The Tonight Show' wins high ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—Conan O'Brien has reason to smile after his debut as "Tonight" show host. His first Nielsen Media Research report card showed a 7.1 rating and 17 audience share in the nation's biggest media markets. Those numbers indicate more people checked out O'Brien's show out than watched David Letterman's "Late Show" on CBS and ABC's "Nightline" combined.

"We were very happy," said O'Brien's boss, Ben Silverman, co-chairman of NBC Entertainment and Universal Movie Studios.

The trick is the second night, and the third—and the hundreds more likely to come.

O'Brien set himself apart early from predecessor Jay Leno with his reliance on taped comedy bits, but that approach drew some mixed reviews from the critics.

"I just wish O'Brien had shown more nerve on his opening night," said David Zurawik, The (Baltimore) Sun TV critic.

O'Brien's Nielsen numbers were 19 percent lower than Leno's farewell Friday night, which had an 8.8 rating and 20 share. History suggests goodbyes draw more interest than hellos, even if Leno's exit is only temporary. (He hosts a prime-time weeknight show starting in September.) Leno drew more than 16 million viewers to his 1993 debut replacing Johnny Carson; Carson's farewell was seen by 41 million people.

A typical "Tonight" show this season had a 4.0 rating. Each ratings point represents 1 percent of the nation's homes with TV, which means 7 percent of homes had someone watching O'Brien on NBC. The audience share is the percentage of televisions on at a given time; 17 percent were tuned to O'Brien.

O'Brien opened his show with an extended segment supposedly showing him running across the country from New York to Los Angeles, only to realize when he got there he had forgotten his keys. Separate taped bits also had him commandeering a tram full of tourists on the Universal lot and driving his Ford Taurus in his adopted, auto-obsessed hometown.

The Washington Post critic Tom Shales said it wasn't encouraging seeing O'Brien devoting the entire first half of his debut to himself.

Newsday's Verne Gay said opening-night jitters were apparent.

"The first night of what will probably be the first night of the rest of Conan O'Brien's professional life was not a disaster," Gay wrote. "Not at all. But it was far from a success ... A few million `Tonight' show habitues turned to their spouses and said, `tell me AGAIN Mabel why NBC dumped Leno for this guy?'"

Entertainment Weekly's Ken Tucker said the debut was "glitzy, glamorous fun" and that the taped material showed how much planning O'Brien is putting into the show.

Silverman said he was optimistic that O'Brien can keep NBC ahead of its chief late-night competitor, Letterman. O'Brien is 46; Letterman 62.

"I'm hoping that Conan's youth and smart sense of humor and kind of transparent kindness comes across," he said. "I think that comes through with Fallon and Leno, too. These are genuinely kind people that care about the people around them."

'Eminem, Bruno stunt was planned'

NEW YORK (AP)—The head writer for the MTV Movie Awards has settled the debate: the stunt involving Sacha Baron Cohen and Eminem at the MTV Movie Awards was completely planned.

Comedy writing veteran Scott Aukerman wrote in a posting on his blog that the incident was staged and rehearsed in advance.

At Sunday's award show, Baron Cohen appeared in character as his gay fashionista Bruno. He fell on top of Eminem after being suspended above the crowd. The rapper appeared to find little humor in the stunt and stormed out.

AP

Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as Bruno, is lowered into the audience during the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

Speculation was rampant over what was and wasn't real. Baron Cohen, Eminem and MTV have yet to comment on it.

Aukerman's posting has since been removed. His manager didn't immediately return a call Tuesday.

Thornton ex-wife defends daughter in neglect case

MIAMI (AP)—Actor Billy Bob Thornton's estranged daughter, charged with neglect in the death of her infant goddaughter, was a longtime friend of the baby's mother and is "very distressed" about the situation, the woman's mother said Tuesday.

Thornton's first wife, Melissa Parish, told The Associated Press that her daughter Amanda Brumfield is "very distressed and very sad about what happened" to 1-year-old Olivia Garcia. She said Brumfield, 29, lost touch with the star of films such as "Monster's Ball" when he moved to California more than 20 years ago.

Brumfield and the infant's mother, Heather Murphy, have been friends for years.

"Amanda was always offering to look after her kids. She was even at the hospital when Olivia was born," Parish said. "Amanda has bought formula and clothes for the kids."

Parish said Murphy and her daughter were still close after the child's death in October and grieved together but said the relationship quickly fizzled since the arrest.

Brumfield told investigators the girl acted normally and ate bananas after she fell from a playpen and hit her head, according to police documents.

Marriage drama keeps 'Jon & Kate' on ratings roll

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new season of "Jon & Kate Plus 8" continues to attract a big audience after its splashy debut last week.

Two episodes of the reality series aired Monday, one drawing 5.9 million viewers and the other 5.5 million. According to Nielsen Media Research figures released Tuesday, they were the most-watched basic cable programs of the night.

The episodes fell short of the 9.8 million viewers that watched last week's premiere. But they bested the show's past average audience of fewer than 3 million viewers.

"Jon & Kate Plus 8" was already TLC's most popular show. But viewer interest has been boosted by media coverage of Jon and Kate Gosselin's marital woes.

Broken mirrorball trophy: Centuries of bad luck?

"Dancing with the Stars" winners Mark Ballas, left, and Shawn Johnson arrive at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If one broken mirror means seven years of bad luck, "Dancing With the Stars" champs Shawn Johnson and Mark Ballas could be facing centuries of misfortune. When the dancing partners opened their respective mirrorball trophies after a cross-country trip, each was broken. Ballas says the trophies broke during a flight from New York.

ABC said the mirrorballs are being repaired. Johnson, 17, and Ballas were crowned winners of the hit show's eighth season last month.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Nashville Star' contestant sues singer John Rich

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A former "Nashville Star" contestant who filed assault and harassment charges against country star John Rich is now suing the singer. In a lawsuit filed Monday in Circuit Court, Jared Ashley cites the assault and harassment allegations and contends that Rich and Rich's attorney defamed him by falsely telling the media that Ashley demanded $2.9 million to drop the charges. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. Rich is part of the hit duo Big & Rich. He turned himself in to Nashville police last week to face assault and harassment charges and was released on $3,000 bond. Rich denied all the charges. A representative for Rich said Tuesday that the singer declined comment.

Jay Leno's prime-time show will premiere Sept. 14

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says "The Jay Leno Show" will premiere Sept. 14. The new prime-time hour starring Leno will air weeknights at 10 o'clock Eastern. It's the first talk-entertainment show to be scheduled by a broadcast network to run five nights a week in prime time. Leno's 17-year run on "The Tonight Show" ended last week, with Conan O'Brien taking over Monday as "Tonight" host.

Heidi and Spencer quit NBC's 'I'm a Celebrity'

NEW YORK (AP)—Heidi and Spencer Pratt say they're out and are quitting "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" The bratty newlyweds, who star on MTV's "The Hills," seem to mean it this time after ditching the NBC competition show at least twice, then changing their minds. "I'm a Celebrity," which premiered Monday, airs from the Costa Rican jungle, with semi-famous people competing for food, supplies and TV screen-time. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, supermodel Janice Dickinson and former Illinois first lady Patti Blagojevich (bluh-GOY'-uh-vich) are among the remaining nine contestants. "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" continues through June 24 on multiple weeknights.

Kelly Ripa heads to NJ as her father is sworn in

BLACKWOOD, N.J. (AP)—Daytime talk show host Kelly Ripa (RIP'-uh) is scheduled to be present Wednesday when New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine (KOR'-zyn) swears in her father as Camden County clerk. Democrat Joe Ripa is filling the job until the November election. Ripa says he'll run in the fall for a full five-year term. He's replacing James Beach, who's now a state senator. Ripa is a former bus driver and union administrator who became a Camden County freeholder in 2004. His famous daughter maintains a high-profile presence in southern New Jersey, where she appears in advertisements for Cooper University Hospital and has helped raise money for her father's campaigns. Kelly Ripa is most famous for her syndicated morning show with Regis Philbin, "Live with Regis and Kelly."

Coupon clippers share their wealth with military families

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Thrifty Shopper in New Jersey" (Feb. 28) she can send coupons left over from her coupon swap to an overseas military base. Several organizations on base, including the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (www.nmcrs.org) and the Fleet and Family Support Centers, collect and distribute coupons. Because of the costs of living overseas, coupons can be vital to military families. Thank you, Abby, for your support of us throughout the years.

NAVY WIFE IN JAPAN

DEAR NAVY WIFE: No, thank you for the valuable information. Readers, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) recommends that people not send coupons that are more than three months beyond their expiration date. Manufacturers require commissaries to return coupons within six months of expiration. Coupons older than six months by the time they make it to the manufacturer will not be honored. Therefore, the value of the coupon comes out of the commissary budget. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There's a wonderful Web site called the Overseas Coupon Program. On this site, people can adopt a military base in the branch of service and location of their choice. It's a very easy way to help military personnel and their families. For details, go to ocpnet.org.

LINDA L., WINNSBORO, TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Suggest that nice lady offer the coupons on FreeCycle.org. It is a listing board for unwanted or unneeded items. Its purpose is to keep things out of landfills. Listing is free, and all the items must be free. She can join the group in her area and maybe it will start a trend of coupon sharing. In these times of money woes, we can all benefit by saving some money at the grocery store.

Thanks for all the years of enjoyment, Abby. I am glad my first time writing to you isn't because I have a problem, but to help someone. God bless!

L.B. IN NANUET, N.Y.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Thrifty" should visit www.afullcup.com. It's a large group of online coupon swappers that lists hundreds of online coupons as well as runs swaps via "snail" mail. They also offer information for people who want to learn how to use coupons to their fullest potential. That way, "Thrifty Shopper" can expand her swap and also find herself some great deals.

JODY S., PENGILLY, MINN.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Since military families overseas don't have much access to coupons like we do here and because prices are so high overseas, coupons are very much appreciated.

Many military groups such as the Marine Corps League, American Legion and VFW, and service organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary and not to mention church groups, senior centers, etc. around the country have coupon projects in which they collect coupons from within the community and send them to military bases overseas.

"Thrifty Shopper" should inquire within her local community to see if there is a group involved in such a program. I am the coordinator for our local Marine Corps League coupon project. We have a Web site that gives more information, including how anyone can start a project in their own community. Visit www.couponproject.zoomshare.com for more information.

L. PARKINSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

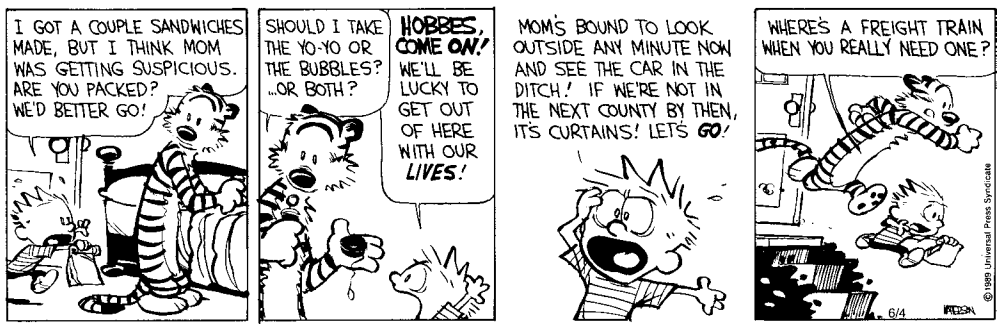
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GOT A COUPLE SANDWICHES MADE, BUT I THINK MOM WAS GETTING SUSPICIOUS. ARE YOU PACKED? WE'D BETTER GO!
SHOULD I TAKE THE YO-YO OR THE BUBBLES? ...OR BOTH?
HOBBES, COME ON! WE'LL BE LUCKY TO GET OUT OF HERE WITH OUR LIVES!
MOM'S BOUND TO LOOK OUTSIDE ANY MINUTE NOW AND SEE THE CAR IN THE DITCH! IF WE'RE NOT IN THE NEXT COUNTY BY THEN, IT'S CURTAINS! LETS GO!
WHERE'S A FREIGHT TRAIN WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE?
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6/4

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

BEWARE OF DOG 9:00AM-5:00PM
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Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
EXCEPT FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
OH, AND CHEWY BONE BREAKS AT 10 AND 3
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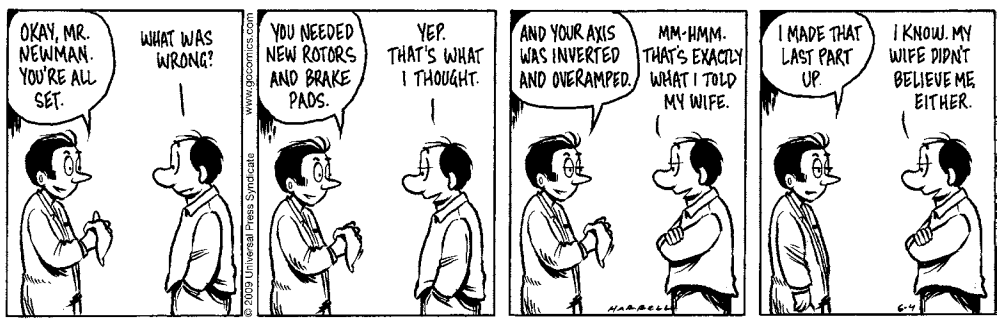
JIM DAVIS 6-4

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, MR. NEWMAN. YOU'RE ALL SET.
WHAT WAS WRONG?
YOU NEEDED NEW ROTORS AND BRAKE PADS.
YEP. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
AND YOUR AXIS WAS INVERTED AND OVERAMPED.
MM-HMM. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD MY WIFE.
I MADE THAT LAST PART UP.
I KNOW. MY WIFE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, EITHER.
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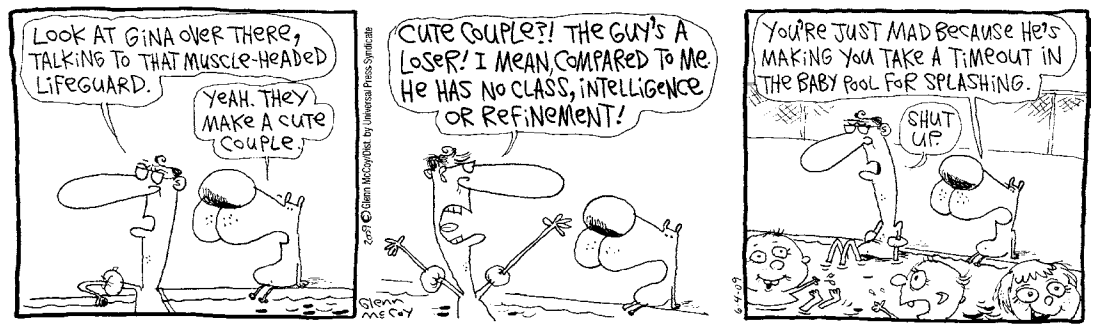
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LOOK AT GINA OVER THERE, TALKING TO THAT MUSCLE-HEADED LIFEGUARD.
YEAH. THEY MAKE A CUTE COUPLE.
CUTE COUPLE?! THE GUY'S A LOSER! I MEAN, COMPARED TO ME. HE HAS NO CLASS, INTELLIGENCE OR REFINEMENT!
YOU'RE JUST MAD BECAUSE HE'S MAKING YOU TAKE A TIMEOUT IN THE BABY POOL FOR SPLASHING.
SHUT UP.
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6-4-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

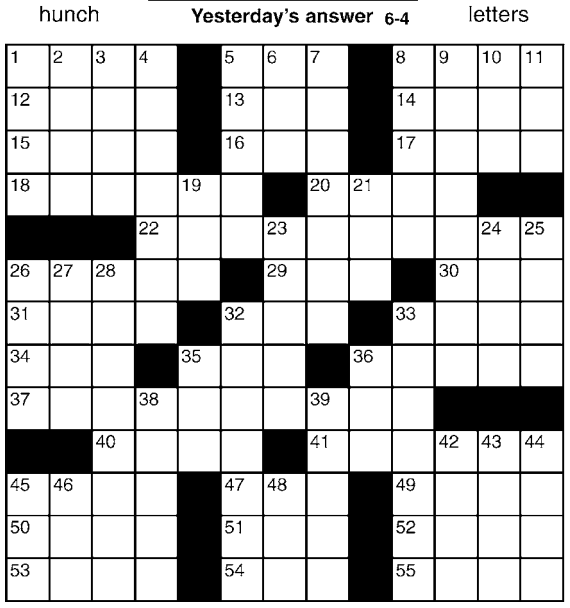
ACROSS
1 Read quickly
5 The whole shebang
8 Eastern potentate
12 Author Morrison
13 Halloween shout
14 Easter emblem
15 Winged
16 Early bird?
17 Gilligan's home
18 Bicycle-seat style
20 Restaurant chain acronym
22 "Dilbert" or "Garfield"
26 Face-to-face exams
29 Cistern
30 Altar affirmative
31 Jackknife, for one
32 Crony
33 Had more than a hunch
34 Female deer
35 Roscoe
36 Falafel holders
37 Meccas for shoppers
40 Break suddenly
41 Pearl's home
45 $50, in "Monopoly"
47 Sportage maker
49 Black-and-white treat
50 Lotion additive
51 Charged bit
52 Sensed
53 Proper bloke
54 Greek consonants
55 Admit, with "up"

DOWN
1 Impale
2 Caffeine-rich nut
3 — instant
4 Sainthood prerequisite
5 Perpendicular to the keel
6 Journal
7 Sane
8 "Cats" inspirer
9 Typo
10 Ailing
11 Pumpernickel alternative
19 Ph. bk. data
21 DDE predecessor
23 Ex of The Donald
24 Notion
25 "Hogan's Heroes" group
26 Probability
27 Laugh-a-minute
28 Distaste
32 Cinderella's coach, really
33 Casual dismissal
35 Coll. transcript stat
36 Thickness
38 Cove
39 Bank transactions
42 Genealogy chart
43 Morays, e.g.
44 Deteriorates
45 Satchel
46 Hearty brew
48 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 25 mins.

			I	T	S			B	M	I		
		K	N	O	W		G	L	O	A	T	
M	E	T	R	O			R	O	O	M	E	R
A	P	R	I	L	F	O	O	L	S	D	A	Y
R	I	O			L	L	A	M	A		I	C	E
				S	E	E	N				C	U	E	S
		T	B	O	N	E			D	R	U	M	S	
D	U	A	L				B	O	U	T				
E	R	B			A	A	R	O	N			L	U	G
F	O	O	L	S	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E		
	W	O	O	I	N	G			M	O	N	E	T	
		N	U	D	E	S			O	P	E	D		
			T	E	A				K	E	N			

Yesterday's answer 6-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Angelina Jolie, 34; Noah Wyle, 38; Michelle Phillips, 65; Bruce Dern, 73

Happy Birthday: Your emotions will be difficult to handle, especially when it comes to matters of injustice. Dealing with children or friends about whom you are worried will add to your responsibilities. Your plate will be overloaded and you must choose wisely when and how you approach each task this year. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 28, 34, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership is only as good as its weakest link. Don't be the one to fall short. Don't limit your talent or ability to grow because someone else can't keep up. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It's being active and participating in the game of life that will inspire you to take on more and do more for others. This is not the time to complain. Do your best and excel. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A problem with someone who has jurisdiction over your financial or professional decisions may occur if you are too aggressive. Listen and respond with dignity, patience and insight. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't give in to something or someone if you know you have a better idea, plan or way to do things. A positive change regarding your future financially will come from an idea you get from someone you respect. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stand up for your rights and refuse to let anyone bully you into something you aren't sure will work for you. Problems with money will surface if you let someone talk you into investing in something questionable. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change in your financial situation will come about if you aren't afraid to alter some of the ways you do things. Don't disregard something that may appear odd to you if it will enhance what you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be afraid to question the financing behind a project you are involved in. You may have to pull back or refuse to put more in. A change in the way you do things will lead to an interesting proposition. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll find it emotionally challenging to deal with loved ones or people you have hired to do projects for you. Fear of being wrong should not enter the picture if you have done your research and aren't afraid to stand out by being a little different. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Set things up before you attempt to win someone's favor. Have your facts and figures ready to present. An opportunity that arises will only be there for a moment, so be ready. Your reputation will be on the line. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may have plenty on the line but, if you have diligently worked out each and every detail, you have nothing to fear. Move forward with what you have instead of trying for perfection with something that will never be exactly to your liking. Let your project grow naturally. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You must be able to justify any expense you are incurring. Don't make impulsive decisions or financial expenditures without reading the fine print. Someone you care for will cost you emotionally, personally and monetarily if you give in. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to make some hard decisions that will affect others but, before you do, make sure they know the repercussions involved. You will come to a collective decision that everyone can work with. This will lead to a much better future that will benefit everyone. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are willful, stubborn, contemplative and willing to change your mind midstream if it will help your purpose. You set high standards for yourself and others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9						3	
6				1				2
			2		7			
		1		4		5		
	4		9	6	5		2	
		7		3		9		
			6		4			
8				5				9
	7						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	8	3	6	9	1	4	2
3	1	4	8	5	2	9	7	6
6	9	2	1	7	4	5	8	3
9	8	6	4	2	5	7	3	1
4	3	1	7	8	6	2	5	9
5	2	7	9	3	1	8	6	4
2	7	3	6	1	8	4	9	5
1	6	9	5	4	7	3	2	8
8	4	5	2	9	3	6	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS **Solution: 8 letters**

T C N I T X E M I T M A E R D
H E R U T L U C A T H Y D N I
S L R Q U E E N S L A N D A D
A R A M S U G N A N A O E E G
N I E N S N (E) (F) (I) (L) R I L P E
C Y R T G E O R N Y N T A O R
E I A R N U T I O N H I W R I
S T M R U U A T T R E N A U D
T I A E R M H G L A M G N E O
R T B I D U Y T E E N O N F O
Y L O T Y N M A R L M C U I R
S E C I T C A R P E A E G R A
W A N G K A I P G A P R N S L
D D U R E M A I N S P A S T E
I N H A B I T A N T S N A L C

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Anangu, Ancestry, Arnhem, Cathy, Clans, Culture, Didgeridoo, Dreamtime, European, Extinct, First, Hunters, Inhabitants, Language, Learn, Life, Mabo, Mainland, Murray, Murri, Nations, Ngunnawal, Oral, Pandemic, Past, Perth, Practices, Queensland, Recognition, Remains, Rudd, Settlement, Term, Title, Wangkai, Yapa, Yothu Yindi

Yesterday's Answer: Covert

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: In for a penny, in for a pound

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

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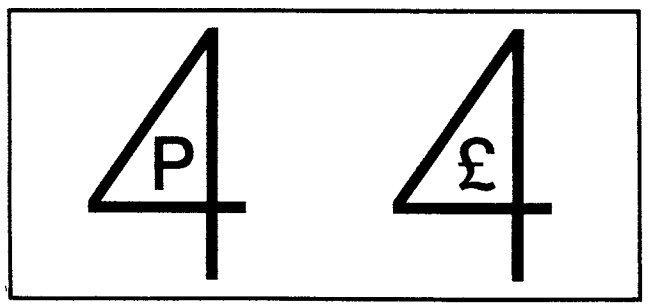
LOST PASSPORT
Name: Zhechun, Li
Passport No: P2067093
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Jan. 3, 1966
If found, please call 483-8085.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

Luis and Teresita Manibusan
P.O. Box 500542
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: LUIS REID CASTRO MANIBUSAN Minor Child,	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0335**
By: **LUIS MANIBUSAN and TERESITA SABLAN MANIBUSAN,** Petitioners.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Legal Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Luis Manibusan and Teresita S. Manibusan, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held ad the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 15th day of June, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
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Sharapova loses at French, barely avoids shutout

PARIS (AP)—The final score of Maria Sharapova's stunning loss in the French Open quarterfinals Tuesday did not look quite as embarrassing as it nearly did: Her opponent led 6-0, 5-0. That Sharapova saved a match point in the 12th game and wound up delaying her defeat for 15 minutes was of no consolation, of course. All that mattered was that her bid to complete a career Grand Slam this year ended when she was beaten 6-0, 6-2 by 20th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova.

"I don't really care about numbers. It's either a 'W' or an 'L,'" Sharapova said, "and I prefer 'W.'"

All of that time on court at the French Open, and all of that time away before it, finally caught up to her, resulting in her most lopsided loss at a major tournament.

"You can only ask your body to do so much," said Sharapova, who had right shoulder surgery in October and had played four three-set matches at Roland Garros in her first major tournament in nearly a year. "Everything fell a little short today. The pace wasn't there on my strokes, and, you know, I was five steps slower."

Her absence from the tour dropped her ranking outside the top 100. Still, as a former No. 1 and a three-time major champion, Sharapova was expected to beat Cibulkova, a 20-year-old Slovak who was making her Grand Slam quarterfinal debut and whose chief financial backer is not a shoe company or a racket manufacturer but, instead, a friend of her coach from back home in Bratislava.

Now the 5-foot-3 Cibulkova—11 inches shorter than Sharapova—faces the current No. 1, Dinara Safina, who overcame a shaky start to defeat No. 9 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova reacts after being defeated by Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova during their quarter final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Tuesday June 2, 2009

"I'm not really happy with my game today," Safina said.

One might have thought Cibulkova would feel exactly the opposite about her own performance, but neither she nor her coach, Vladimir Platenik, thought she played perfectly. "Regular," was the word Platenik used when they huddled in the hallway outside the locker room at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

"I told you!" Platenik said. "I told you if you played regular, you could do it!"

Indeed, stranger things have happened at this tournament, not least was Robin Soderling's fourth-round upset of four-time defending champion Rafael Nadal. No one, save perhaps Soderling, thought he would stop Nadal's 31-match winning streak in Paris, and given that accomplishment, there should be no doubting how far the Swede can go.

The 23rd-seeded Soderling stretched his career-best winning streak to eight matches by easily handling two-time French Open semifinalist Nikolay Davydenko 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. Never before a Grand Slam semifinalist—or quarterfinalist or even fourth-round participant—Soderling will be a French Open finalist if he can beat No. 12 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

"I always knew that I could play really, really good tennis," Soderling said.

Gonzalez, the 2007 Australian Open runner-up, reached his first semifinal at Roland Garros with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 victory over No. 3 Andy Murray.

Was Gonzalez surprised to have taken a set 6-0 from Murray?

"Playing Andy? I would have never dreamed it," Gonzalez said, "even playing table tennis."

Cibulkova had similar thoughts about Sharapova, and it showed at the end.

Far less experienced in these settings, Cibulkova was steady throughout. She made only one unforced error in the first set and nine overall, 18 fewer than Sharapova. Cibulkova broke Sharapova's serve in the first game and—with the help of two double-faults—again in the third, and suddenly a pattern was established.

When Sharapova was late for a backhand and tried hitting the ball lefty, only to sail the shot wide, Cibulkova had won 11 of 11 games and would serve for the match. She got within a point of ending things, right then and there, when it hit her.

"I realized, like, 'What is happening? 6-0, 5-0 - it's too much, I think, against Maria,'" she said. "That's why maybe I missed the first match point."

She pushed a forehand long there to start a run of eight consecutive points for Sharapova, which allowed the Russian to break to 5-1 and hold for 5-2. Serving for the match a second time, Cibulkova saw three more match points go to waste: Sharapova would not go quietly, her strokes gaining their customary sting and her trademark shrieks rising in pitch and volume.

But on match point No. 5, Sharapova dumped a forehand into the net, and Cibulkova dropped her racket and fell on her back, leaving a rusty splotch on her white top.

"She made me hit a lot of balls. She was very solid. She did the right things, I mean, in order to win," Sharapova said. "She won. I guess that's what only matters in the end."

To Sharapova, maybe. To Cibulkova, every detail of the biggest victory of her career mattered.

Beaming afterward, Cibulkova wanted to hear Platenik describe what had just happened.

"How many match points did I have?" she asked her coach. "How many? Tell me!"

Magic players: Jameer Nelson will play in NBA finals

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic players say Jameer Nelson will play in the NBA finals, even though the All-Star point guard and his coach remain publicly pessimistic.

Nelson participated in a full team practice Tuesday for the first time since tearing the labrum in his right shoulder Feb. 2. While Nelson and coach Stan Van Gundy still said the point guard's status won't be determined until game day, players said Nelson looked "terrific" and expect him to be on the court against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I expect to see him out there at some point in the series," backup point guard Anthony Johnson said.

Nelson had what was then called season-ending surgery Feb. 19. Nelson's rehabilitation was supposed to take at least another two months.

Game 1 of the finals is Thursday night in Los Angeles, and healed or not, Nelson wants to play.

"I'm not saying I'm any tougher or stronger than anybody, but I've been known to do some amazing things sometimes," Nelson said Tuesday, again lobbying for playing time.

Magic general manager Otis Smith had repeatedly said Nelson will not play again this season. But he recanted his comments Monday and said a quicker recovery and the chance of winning a championship has forced him to at least take a look at Nelson

"It's still no in my mind," Smith said. "There's a very smidgen of a chance he can play."

That "smidgen" seems to be growing.

Nelson has been playing full-court games and practicing in non-contact drills for the last two weeks. Tuesday, he participated in every drill.

Players said Nelson wasn't in his All-Star form, but even not completely healthy, he was better than most NBA point guards.

"He was terrific," Magic forward Mickael Pietrus said. "Hopefully, he will play and can help us win."

Starting point guard Rafer Alston expressed similar optimism.

"I was going to try to run him ragged out there, but I didn't want to cross him over," Alston said. "He did cross me over a couple times."

The Lakers are preparing as if Nelson will play—and for good reason.

Orlando was 2-0 against Los Angeles this season. Nelson was Orlando's leading scorer in both those games, averaging 27.5 points.

And with the Lakers' troubles guarding point guards in the postseason, they're not taking any chances.

"He's a terrific player. He's really come on a lot in the last year as a player," Lakers coach Phil Jackson. "Someone's got to play that position and we have to match whatever happens there. He has the speed and intelligence to play that position very well for that team."

Nelson has been trying to convince the Magic for a chance at playing since the playoffs began, with each round the team advances the idea—and the talk—of him returning growing.

For the Lakers, Nelson is just one more offensive weapon they have to worry about.

"They add another scorer," Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant said. "They have a team full of them, but he is another player you're going to have to deal with on defense."

The Magic's title hopes seemingly took a major hit after Nelson was injured. A trade-deadline deal that brought Alston from Houston largely saved the Magic's season, allowing the rotation to remain the same and Johnson to continue to provide solid play as Alston's backup.

The Magic are hoping Nelson can only add to that success.

Van Gundy, perhaps trying to keep his coaching strategy a secret, again expressed doubt Tuesday whether Nelson could seriously return for the finals. But he also said that even if Nelson doesn't play in Game 1, he could play later in the series.

"He was OK," Van Gundy said, shrugging his shoulders. "We'll have to wait until and see."

NBA BRIEFS

LeBron James has benign growth removed from jaw

Cavaliers star LeBron James had a benign growth removed from his right jaw during a five-hour procedure at the Cleveland Clinic on Tuesday. James has had the condition for several months, but with permission from his treating doctors, he and his family decided to put off the operation until the Cavs completed their season. Cleveland was eliminated from the NBA playoffs on Saturday by Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals. During the operation, Dr. Frank Papay removed tissue from the parotid gland, which produces saliva. Surgery for such conditions often takes time because of the numerous nerves and blood vessels in that area of the jaw. ***(AP)***

76ers introduce Eddie Jordan as coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eddie Jordan had been linked to the Philadelphia 76ers coaching job since December. He was friends with team president Ed Stefanski from their days together in New Jersey, making him a natural contender to fill the first seat on the bench. It just took Jordan until May to get the job. The former Wizards and Kings coach was introduced in Philadelphia on Monday with a promise that his Princeton offense can turn the Sixers into Eastern Conference contenders. "This team has a good core group, has future stars in the waiting, they've had playoff experience for two years," Jordan said. "Now it's time to go uptown." The Sixers have been stuck in neutral ever since Allen Iverson led them to the NBA finals in 2001. Philadelphia went 41-41 this season and was eliminated in the first round by Eastern Conference champion Orlando.

Bulls assistant Del Harris retires

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Bulls assistant Del Harris has retired after a 33-year career in the NBA in which he was coach of the year in 1995 with the Los Angeles Lakers. The 71-year-old Harris is leaving Tuesday after one season working under Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro. Harris spent 12 seasons as a head coach with three teams. In addition to the Lakers, he coached Milwaukee and Houston. He took the Rockets to the NBA finals in 1981. He also worked as an assistant in Dallas. In all, he made 27 trips to the playoffs.

Halladay gets ninth win as Blue Jays beat Angels

TORONTO (AP)—Roy Halladay struck out a career-high 14 to win his major league-leading ninth game, Alex Rios backed him with a home run and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Los Angeles Angels 6-4 on Tuesday night.

Halladay (9-1) threw his second complete game of the season, allowing four runs, no walks and seven hits to win his sixth straight decision. Working on an extra day of rest, he threw a season-high 133 pitches.

The right-hander, whose only defeat this season was an April 21 loss to Texas, moved ahead of Kansas City's Zack Greinke for the major league lead in wins.

Joe Saunders(notes) (6-4) took the loss for Los Angeles.

Rays 6, Royals 2

At St. Petersbrgh, Fla., Matt Joyce hit a tiebreaking two-run double and added a two-run homer, and Andy Sonnanstine allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings to lead the Rays past the Royals.

Joyce made it 4-2 on his two-out double during the sixth off reliever Horacio Ramirez. He extended the Tampa Bay advantage to 6-2 on his third homer of the season in the eighth.

Yankees 12, Rangers 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira sparked the Yankees with a takeout slide at second base after being hit with pitches twice, Hideki Matsui and Jorge Posada hit three-run homers and New York beat the Rangers to take over best record in the American League.

Derek Jeter became the fourth active player with 1,500 runs—and just the fourth in Yankees history—when Teixeira sent rookie shortstop Elvis Andrus tumbling on Alex Rodriguez's(notes) fourth-inning grounder. A-Rod beat out the relay to avoid an inning-ending double play as Jeter scored for a 4-3 lead, keeping alive what would turn into a seven-run inning.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 1

At Detroit, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched five strong innings to win for the first time this season and manager Terry Francona earned his 500th victory as the Red Sox beat the Tigers.

Francona became the third Boston manager to reach that plateau with the Red Sox, joining Joe Cronin (1,071) and Mike Higgins (560).

Twins 4, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer homered and had three RBIs to help Kevin Slowey win again in the Twins' victory over the Indians.

Slowey (8-1) won his fourth consecutive start pitching six strong innings. The Twins needed a good pitching performance to make up for the absence of two sluggers. Michael Cuddyer missed the game with a strained right index finger and Joe Crede sat out with a swollen left knee.

Athletics 5, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Vin Mazzaro pitched into the seventh inning to win his major league debut and Matt Holliday hit a three-run double to lead the Athletics to a victory over the White Sox.

Mazzaro allowed three hits, walked four and struck one in 6 1-3 innings. Jack Cust homered for Oakland, which won for just the second time in seven games.

Mariners 8, Orioles 2

At Seattle, Erik Bedard pitched like an ace against his former team, Ichiro Suzuki extended his hitting streak to a team-record 26 consecutive games and the Mariners beat the Orioles.

Bedard (4-2) allowed one run and four hits in 6 1-3 innings to lower his ERA to 2.37, fourth-best in the AL. He struck out seven while throwing a season-high 112 pitches.

Pirates 3, Mets 1

At Pittsburgh, Zach Duke pitched seven effective innings and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Johan Santana and the New York Mets 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Jason Jaramillo hit his first major league homer for the Pirates, who have won three of four. Freddy Sanchez and Nate McLouth each had two hits.

Phillies 10, Padres 5

At San Diego, Raul Ibanez homered twice and drove in five runs, and left-hander Antonio Bastardo won his major league debut as the Phillies jumped on ailing Padres ace Jake Peavy.

Peavy allowed four runs before leaving after one inning, the shortest outing of his career, due to a viral upper respiratory infection.

Marlins 10, Brewers 3

At Miami, Cody Ross hit a grand slam and Dan Uggla belted a milestone home run to help the Marlins beat the Brewers.

Uggla became the fastest second baseman to reach 100 career homers with a two-run shot in the second. It came in his 502nd game as a second baseman, beating Alfonso Soriano by 34 games.

Nationals 10, Giants 6

At Washington, Christian Guzman hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Washington's six-run eighth inning, helping the Nationals beat the Giants.

Guzman was in a 7-for-45 skid before his hit off Merkin Valdez gave the Nationals a 6-5 lead.

Washington snapped a six-game losing streak, avoiding its first seven-game slide since starting the season 0-7. The six-run inning tied its season high.

Braves 6, Cubs 5, 12 innings

At Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur hit a tying two-run homer with two outs in the ninth and Chipper Jones drove in the winning run with a 12th-inning single, helping the Braves rally for a victory over the Cubs.

The Cubs wasted a brilliant performance by rookie starter Randy Wells. Filling in for suspended Carlos Zambrano, he didn't allow a hit until Jones singled with two outs in the seventh.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2

At St. Louis, rookie Nick Stavinoha gave St. Louis another key hit with a two-run, go-ahead double in the sixth inning and stand-in starter Brad Thompson (1-1) worked five effective innings for the Cardinals in a victory over the Reds.

Stavinoha has 12 RBIs in only 45 at-bats for the Cardinals, who beat the Reds for the sixth time in seven games at Busch Stadium since last season. Albert Pujols had two RBIs.

Astros 3, Rockies 2, 11 innings

At Houston, Miguel Tejada hit a game-winning homer off Josh Fogg in the 11th inning to cap a three-RBI night and lift the Astros to a win over the Rockies.

Tejada, the NL's leading hitter coming in with a .353 average, tied the game in the ninth with an RBI single off Huston Street. He also had an RBI single in the fifth against Rockies starter Ubaldo Jimenez.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 5

At Los Angeles, James Loney hit a tying three-run double in the eighth inning and Casey Blake followed with an RBI single, leading the Dodgers to a victory over the Diamondbacks.

Dan Haren pitched seven innings of two-hit ball for the Diamondbacks and went 3-for-3 at the plate, leaving with a 5-1 lead before the Diamondbacks' bullpen crumbled.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay, left, celebrates with Blue Jays catcher Rod Barajas, right, during the ninth inning after defeating the Los Angeles Angels 6-4 of a baseball game in Toronto, Canada, Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

Memphis finds no proof former player cheated

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis was unable to find proof a former player cheated on his SAT exam in its internal investigation of NCAA allegations against the men's basketball team.

The investigation report, released to The Associated Press and other news outlets Tuesday under a public records request, details Memphis' internal investigation into allegations that a former player allowed a stand-in to take his SAT test and of grade tampering.

School officials argue that even if the NCAA's Committee on Infractions believes a former player cheated, the program should not be penalized because the school was unaware of any wrongdoing.

Most names in the report were redacted by the school because of privacy concerns, but an attorney for former Memphis star Derrick Rose has acknowledged that Rose cooperated with an investigation of similar allegations while still a student.

The report says the school had no reason to suspect the SAT was fraudulent until notified by Educational Testing Service that the player's score had been canceled. That letter came May 5, 2008, after Rose's only season at Memphis.

Patriots' Harrison mulls NFL future

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Here's a sample, compliments of Patriots linebacker Pierre Woods, of what television viewers can expect when Rodney Harrison goes on the air:

"When you hit someone, you want their mommas to feel it."

Or this: "If you can't hit the quarterback, what are you doing out there?"

"I miss Rodney. I wish he was here," Woods said after New England's optional workout on Tuesday. "Wherever he's at, I'm sure he's going to be great."

The Patriots had a round of voluntary workouts this week and Harrison was not on the field at Gillette Stadium—or any field, for that matter. The two-time Pro Bowl selection, who worked for the NFL Network and NBC while injured last season, has scheduled a conference call for Wednesday morning and is expected to announce he is retiring to enter the broadcast booth.

"I know he was pretty good on TV," Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "The future's bright for him, no matter what way he decides to go."

One of the hardest hitters—some say dirtiest—in the history of the NFL, Harrison won two Super Bowls with the Patriots but missed the last 10 games last season after tearing a muscle in his right thigh. Injuries, along with a four-game suspension in 2007 for using a banned substance, limited him to 31 games over the last four seasons.

"You could tell when he came back (after an injury) that he was just happy to be on the field," Woods said. "You're not going to find any more Rodney Harrisons. They called him the dirtiest player in the game, but the guy played with a passion."

Harrison earned his reputation honestly; in poll after poll, opponents voted him the dirtiest player in the league. Not counting pay lost due to the drug suspension, he has been fined more than $200,000 in his career, including a one-game suspension in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Oakland's Jerry Rice that cost him a game check of $111,764.

But his teammates loved him.

"He's out on the field, going full-speed all the time," Patriots defensive lineman Richard Seymour said. "If your top guys are doing that, it trickles down to the rest of the team."

Harrison was also a favorite of reporters, who knew he would be available and quotable, win or lose. Before the league announced his suspension on the eve of the 2007 season, Harrison scheduled a conference call and admitted he took a banned substance and apologized for being a poor role model for kids.

Such honestly also served him well as a TV analyst. After going on injured reserve last October, he worked for the NFL Network and on NBC's Super Bowl coverage.

NBC said Tuesday it will hold a conference call on Wednesday to announce "talent" for the upcoming season. NBC spokesman Brian Walker declined to comment whether Harrison would be joining the network.

Harrison, 36, holds the NFL record for defensive backs with 30 1/2 sacks and, with 34 interceptions, is the only player to have at least 30 of each.

"He'll be missed, believe me," Bruschi said.

Woods recalled joining the Patriots' defense as an undrafted free agent after the team won three Super Bowls in the previous five years and being told by Harrison, "You've got to be a dog out there."

"He'd want you to be a big dog," Woods said. "But even if you're a little dog, you've got to be a mean little sucker."

TSUNAMI

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seconds set during the Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club mutual meet on April 3, 2009.

Staal's sixth record in the weekend came from the 50m butterfly, as he timed in at 28.73 seconds and beat the 28.99 seconds Seung-Gin Lee submitted on July 25, 2001.

Other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who recorded new marks from last weekend's meet were Wong, Kaito Yanai, Ryosei Toda, and Shin Kimura.

Wong made two age group records (17 to 18) and one CNMI mark. His 32.75 seconds in the 50m breaststroke swim in Guam surpassed his own record of 33.03 seconds registered on Feb. 7, 2009.

The Marianas High School graduate's 2:14.48 in the 200m individual medley is the new CNMI National record and 17 to 18 age group mark. Wong broke Sakovich's 2:14.67 logged on Dec. 10. 1987.

Yanai shattered two 18-year marks after timing in at 43.19 seconds in the 50m breaststroke and 1:35.12 in the 100m breaststroke in the boys' 9 to 10 age group. He erased the 43.71 seconds (50m breaststroke) and 1:36.09 (100m breaststroke) records Jacoby Winkfield set on April 19, 1991.

Toda and Kimura had one record-breaking swims apiece, eclipsing their own marks. Toda timed in 2:56.89 in the 200m freestyle to smash his April 4, 2009 record of 2:58.06. Shin recorded 9:46.04 in the 800m freestyle on Dec. 28, 2008 and reset his mark last weekend with a new best time of 9:45.97 in the boys' 15 to 16 age group.

MORE

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ring officials to secure licenses from the commission and pay corresponding fees. A bond not less than $10,000 is required before a promoter gets a license. Besides the license fees, promoters are also mandated to pay a minimum fee of $1,000 for every event they plan to put up and fighters maybe required to get insurance coverage.

"The costs (license and events fees) are too high. We have four to five events a year and we also pay for staff, referees, and fighters. It (bill) is very costly and at this time, it's not going to work," Alvarez said.

Jeff Boyer of Gorilla Warfare MMA also testified at the hearing and said the current provisions in the bill will kill the sport that is starting to grow in the CNMI.

"We are still a very small market with only two promotions (Gorilla and Trench Tech) pushing for MMA fights here. Current provisions in the bill are big blows to MMA," Boyer said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mixed martial arts supporters came in full force in yesterday's hearing for House Bill No. 16-26 at the House of Representatives on Capital Hill.

'Not now'

Jeffery Randall Taylor, Alvarez's business partner at Trench Tech, Inc., said the creation of the commission will mean hiring more people, while the CNMI government and the rest of the world are in financial turmoil.

"These are not critical positions at this critical time. You are looking at least 12 new hires when we are in a freeze hiring mode," Taylor said.

In the bill, the commission must have four members and can employ an executive director and inspectors. There is also the creation of a medical advisory board, which will look into the safety and welfare of fighters. Three license medical practitioners to be appointed by the governor are needed in the board. Their duties include submission of appropriate standard for the physical and mental examination of fighters and recommendation for licensing physicians who are qualified to examine fighters.

"We have only four to five events a year and then we hire doctors who will perform their jobs in four to five days a year. It's better to see them work at CHC for 365 days," Taylor said.

Alvarez said they understood the legislators and public's concern about the safety of the fighters and as promoters they are doing their share of ensuring that MMA participants are in good hands.

"Fighters safety and health are something we will never disagree on. We have a doctor and ambulance on standby during bouts. I am sure there are other ways to protect our fighters, such as getting a health certificate before the fight, and we are ready to work with all concerned parties," Alvarez said.

'Saipan is no Vegas'

Fighters and fans who read the bill pointed out that majority of the provisions H.LB. 16-26 are based on Nevada Athletic Commission's regulations.

Similarities include appointment of various personnel, creation of fees and licenses, requirement of insurance coverage, and setting up percentage for gate receipts and other revenues.

Torres admitted the bill was patterned after the Nevada Athletic Commission, saying he saw Nevada's regulations as something to start up Saipan's.

Jose Mafnas, an MMA figher here and in Hawaii, said Saipan isn't Vegas and lawmakers should look into proposals, which could fit with the Commonwealth's system.

"They have to work with people who have hands on experience in the sport, not just drafting out something from the mainland. Vegas is 10 times bigger or more than the Saipan market," said Mafnas.

Taylor added Las Vegas is a multi-million industry, while Saipan's may not even be considered an industry with its less than $100,000 earnings a year.

Mafnas said setting high fees for licensing and events permit may force promoters to put up less fights and these may affect the fighters themselves and spectators.

L.J. Castro, who works as ring announcer in MMA fights, said setting fees and requiring licenses would mean more red tape, as fighters and promoters have to undergo processes to get things done.

He added at this point when promoters and fighters are regulating themselves, having safety measures for fighters and providing quality fights for fans, a regulatory body is not needed.

"Why fix it if it isn't broken," Castro said.

Insurance, safety concerns

Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) raised concerns on fighters having insurance coverage, as anything can happen inside the cage or the ring.

Taylor said they do not require fighters to have insurance. Fighters also sign waivers, releasing promoters from liability.

"As much as we want to, insurance companies will have second thoughts giving a coverage to fighters. We also have to consider the high cost of insurance, so at this time, it's not going to happen," Taylor said.

In the current bill, the commission may require insurance coverage for medical, surgical, or hospital care of fighters in an amount of $50,000 or more.

Torres reiterated that the bill was introduced primarily to protect fighters from harm and ensure that they are well taken care off, as they are risking their lives during the fights.

"We are for the safety and welfare of the combatants. What will happen if a combatant gets hit in critical fight? When they get sick or injured, are they protected medically?" Torres said, adding getting inputs from the public is what they need to polish the bill.

"We will look at all the angle of this bill. This is not final and in fact, there is already a revision of the bill. The chairperson will call the committee back and go over the bill, and may be invite the people in the business, again to sit down with us and come up with an acceptable version of the bill," Torres said.

Santos said the committee will keep an open communication with the MMA community to come up with the best and most practical bill.

"When there's anything new in the CNMI, we look at other jurisdiction, how they implement any program, or any activity govern by an agency in the government. We then take that particular legislation and see how we can amend or change it to make it fit with CNMI's nuisances, whatever that maybe. As far as the fees, we will see how that plays out in Guam and Hawaii and see what number is reasonable for CNMI," Santos said.

JAPANESE

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Holdings players goal keeping technique and drills.

MP United's Kennedy Izuka was among those who signed up for the two-hour, two-session clinic.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to still play the game and learn goalkeeping techniques from an expert even if the soccer season is over. He is a funny coach, he makes sure we learn the drills and at the same time have fun," Izuka said.

Ashikawa said that is important that kids learn the proper way of goal keeping early, as the competition moves up to a higher level as they get older and defending the goal becomes harder.

Ashikawa also mentioned the three important things that goalkeepers must remember or possess.

"They should practice and master goal keeping techniques. An eye for the ball is also important, a goalkeeper should not keep his eye away from the ball. Lastly, but the most important is to have a winning attitude," said Ashikawa through interpreter Sugao Kambe.

Kambe and Ashikawa have been friends for 10 years and it was the CNMI National Team coach and NMIFA technical director who brought the former Japanese pro goalkeeper to Saipan.

"I want to help my friend, help him develop good players," Ashikawa added.

Ashikawa will conclude his weeklong clinic today and tomorrow at the San Vicente Elementary School Field. The clinic will run from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on both days with Ashikawa meeting IFC and Paire players in the 15-and-under age group. Interested coaches and P.E. teachers are also welcome to attend the free clinic.

NMBA

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after outclassing MDX, 92-85, last Tuesday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

A 12-2 start in the fourth quarter allowed the Ebisuya-supported NMBA to regain control of the game en route to a victory in the opening day of the Masters division.

The match was tied at 64-all at the end of the third quarter before Adonis Macoto, Jun Abedes, Amor Casabuena, and Joseph Gatdula teamed up in NMBA's fourth-quarter run. Casabuena and Abedes had one triple apiece in that rally, giving NMBA a 76-66 lead, going into the final half of the fourth period.

NMBA hung in there, as MDX failed to make headway in the remaining minutes of the game with only Bernardo Montano and Dindo Pablo drilling more than a fieldgoal the Armatech-sponsored squad.

NMBA got off to a jackrabbit start, 28-17, with Jun Abedes connecting on two triples in the first period and his seven other teammates contributing on offense. It kept its 11-point lead at halftime, 44-33, as MDX was still looking for rhythm in the second period.

MDX found its form and outscored NMBA for the first time in the third canto, 21-10, with Bye Dela Cruz firing seven markers and Pablo and Roger Valencia adding five apiece.

MDX then failed to keep its momentum in the payoff period, as they were outgunned by NMBA in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter.

NMBA drew 16 points from Abedes and had three more players scoring double figures. Macoto finished with 11 markers, while William Opone and Francis Rebuyon chipped in 10 each.

Dela Cruz paced MDX with 17 points, while Pablo and Montano nailed 16 and 15 markers, respectively.

NMBA 92 – Abedes 16, Macoto 11, Rebuyon 10, Opone 10, Gatdula 8, Casabuena 8, Tobias 7, Jacob 5, Olivos 5, David 2, Peleno 2.

MDX 85 – Dela Cruz 17, Pablo 16, Montano 15, Canedo 9, Salazar 9, Valencia 9, Samson 4, Paves 4, Masalarte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-17, 44-35, 64-64, 92-85.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	21	.596	-
Boston	30	22	.577	1
Toronto	30	24	.556	2
Tampa Bay	26	28	.481	6
Baltimore	24	29	.453	7 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	28	22	.560	-
Chicago	25	25	.500	3
Minnesota	26	27	.491	3 1/2
Kansas City	23	28	.451	5 1/2
Cleveland	22	32	.407	8

West Division

Texas	30	21	.588	-
Los Angeles	25	25	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	24	28	.462	6 1/2
Oakland	20	30	.400	9 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	30	20	.600	-
New York	28	23	.549	2 1/2
Atlanta	26	25	.510	4 1/2
Florida	25	28	.472	6 1/2
Washington	14	36	.280	16

Central Division

Milwaukee	30	22	.577	-
St. Louis	30	22	.577	-
Cincinnati	27	24	.529	2 1/2
Chicago	25	25	.500	4
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	6
Houston	22	28	.440	7

West Division

Los Angeles	36	18	.667	-
San Francisco	25	25	.500	9
San Diego	25	27	.481	10
Arizona	23	30	.434	12 1/2
Colorado	20	31	.392	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

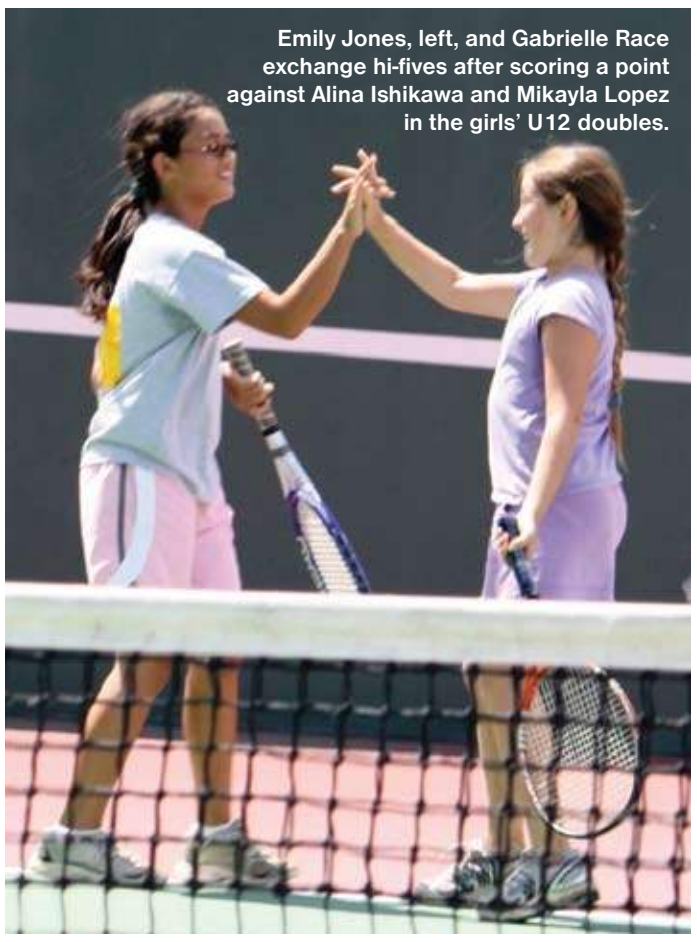
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Washington 10, San Francisco 6
Atlanta 6, Chicago Cubs 5, 12 innings
Florida 10, Milwaukee 3
Houston 3, Colorado 2, 11 innings
St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 2
Philadelphia 10, San Diego 5
L.A. Dodgers 6, Arizona 5
Boston 5, Detroit 1
N.Y. Yankees 12, Texas 3
Toronto 6, L.A. Angels 4
Tampa Bay 6, Kansas City 2
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3
Oakland 5, Chicago White Sox 0
Seattle 8, Baltimore 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sakiko Eda returns to Lihua Liang during the women's 3.0 singles finals game in the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.


Emily Jones, left, and Gabrielle Race exchange hi-fives after scoring a point against Alina Ishikawa and Mikayla Lopez in the girls' U12 doubles.

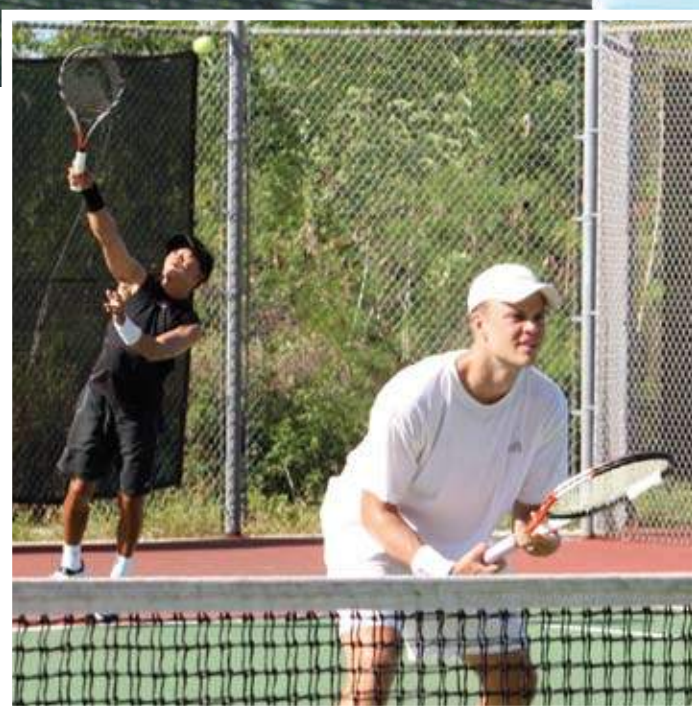
Melody Johnson takes a quick breather before serving against Kinumi Taniguchi in the women's open singles event.

Alina Ishikawa serves, while teammate Mikayla Lopez looks on during their title game against Emily Jones and Gabrielle Race.

Lihua Liang serves to Sakiko Eda during the women's 3.0 singles finals game.

Kinumi Taniguchi looks at her target during her game against Melody Johnson.

Dina Jones goes for a double-forehand return during her game against Melody Johnson in the girls' U18 singles.


Peter Loyola serves, while teammate Kirk Schuler checks on their opponents, Jeff Race and Ji Hoon Heo, during their title match in the men's open doubles.

Sakura Imaya returns to Julia Ishikawa during their girls' U10 singles game.

Halladay gets ninth win as Blue Jays beat Angels

Roy Halladay struck out a career-high 14 to win his major league-leading ninth game, Alex Rios backed him with a home run and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Los Angeles Angels 6-4 on Tuesday night.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sharapova loses at French, barely avoids shutout

The final score of Maria Sharapova's stunning loss in the French Open quarterfinals Tuesday did not look quite as embarrassing as it nearly did: Her opponent led 6-0, 5-0.

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Tsunami swimmers break 12 records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan capped its impressive performance in the 2009 Guam Championships with 12 record-breaking swims at the Agatna Swimming Pool last weekend.

Kai Staal continued his record-shattering swims in the new age group, making six of the 12 new marks Tsunami Saipan bets set in Guam. The Saipan International School student, who moved up from the 13 to 14 age group to the 15 to 16 age division, posted new age group marks in the 50m and 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, and 50m backstroke.

Staal eclipsed Jonathan Sakovich's records in the 50m and 200m freestyle with the former timing in at 25.39 seconds and 2:02.98, respectively. Sakovich's previous records were 25.68 seconds (50m free) and 2:03.95 (200m free), which were both posted on May 10, 1987.

Rezne Wong's 50m breaststroke record (33.88 seconds) in the boys' 15 to 16 age group made on Feb. 1, 2008 fell when Staal clocked in at 32.32 seconds in Guam last weekend. Staal's time is also the new CNMI National Record, as he again crushed Wong's previous mark of 33.03 seconds listed on Feb. 7, 2009.

The 15-year-old swimmer reset his own record in the 50m backstroke when he submitted 31 seconds in the Guam meet. Staal's previous mark was 32.16

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Kai Staal, seen here competing in the 100m breaststroke swim in a tournament early this year, set six records in last week's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From right, Trech Tech. Inc.'s Justis "Cuki" Alvarez and Jeffery Taylor enjoy a light moment, while MMA fighter Kelvin Fitial listens to the proceedings in yesterday's hearing for House Bill No. 16-26 at the House of Representatives on Capital Hill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

More cons than pros in bill to regulate MMA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Members of the mixed martial arts community in the CNMI voiced out their concerns on House Local Bill No. 16-26 in a public hearing at the House of Representatives on Capital Hill yesterday, pointing out more bad than good effects the proposal will do to one of the fastest growing sports here.

H.L.B. 16-26, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), aims to establish the Saipan Local Athletic Commission, which will implement regulations on mixed martial arts activities in the Commonwealth.

Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, president and promoter of Trench Tech, Inc., in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said although he is open to having MMA undergo regulation, there are a lot of provisions in the bill that are "too regulated."

"At the current state of the bill, I am totally against it. Unless we make a lot of changes and come to a compromise, then I support regulation to a certain extent," said Alvarez, who gave his testimony to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Government Operation chaired by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos (R-Saipan).

The bill if made into law will mandate promoters, managers, trainers, and

See MORE on Page 26

Japanese pro holds clinic for goalies

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Football fever in the CNMI did not end in last Saturday's 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Festival, as the Commonwealth's strikers started the week attending goalkeepers clinic from former Japanese professional player Masahiko Ashikawa.

The 50-year-old Ashikawa played as goalkeeper for Toyota Football Club in the Japan Football Club in the 1980s. He is also a goalkeeper coach for Nagoya Grampus Eight (Japan League Division 1) from 1993 to 1994 and from 2004 to 2008. Ashikawa was also a goalkeeper coach for JEF United, another Japan League Division 1 club, from 1995 to 2003. At present, he serves as a scout for JEF United.

Ashikawa arrived on Saipan last Friday and started conducting a clinic last Sunday at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Field, meeting members of the CNMI Men's and Women's National Team, local coaches, and 15-and-under players.

For two days (Tuesday and Wednesday), Ashikawa was at the Garapan Elementary School Field to teach MP United, Matansa, and Tan

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Former Japanese professional player Masahiko Ashikawa, standing third right, and CNMI coach Sugao Kambe, standing left, pose with participants of a goalkeepers clinic last Tuesday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

NMBA wins UFO Masters debut

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMBA-Ebisuya's Francis Rebuyon, right, goes for an undergoal shot against MDX-Armatech's Leo Canedo during the opening game in the Masters division of the UFO caging last Tuesday at the JP Center Basketbal Court in Garapan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Bartenders Association drew first blood in the Masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League

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